

# SOUTHEASTERN

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2016

## FUEL THE FIRE

A Capital Campaign of Southeastern University

ALSO FEATURING

Joy Clifton

Kirsti Mutz

Leaha Shaikh

Lauren Start

David Stewart



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# SOUTHEASTERN

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# PROGRAM BENEFITS



I am thrilled to announce that we have had over 350 alumni join our **O<sub>2</sub>** program this past year! Now that our first year is behind us, it is important that we continue the momentum. Your annual gift of \$25 will help provide scholarship dollars for our students.

Help increase alumni participation by joining **SEU O<sub>2</sub>** and continue to fuel the Fire! After signing up, you will receive an Alumni ID card (just like a student ID card) in the mail. Use this card to take advantage of all the benefits afforded to you by your Alumni Association.

I trust that this will be a blessing to you and your family as you are a blessing to others.

Ed Maner  
Director of Alumni and External Relations



## DISCOUNT PROGRAM

With your O2 alumni card, you will have access to local and national discounts from thousands of hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, automotive repair centers, florists, car dealers, theme parks, national attractions, unique experiences, concerts, events, and much more.



## LIBRARY<sup>1</sup>

With your new O2 alumni card you now have online and in-person access to Southeastern's Steelman Library. Through our complete online database collection, you can access tools to help with sermon preparation, graduate studies, or continued education. Make sure to bring your O2 alumni card with you when you check out books or movies and more.



## PORTICO COFFEEHOUSE

Need a pick-me-up in the middle of the day? When you buy a cup of our mission, you support missions' trips around the world and save 10% on each drink (or overall purchase).



## WEIGHT ROOM<sup>2</sup>

Why make monthly payments at a gym, when a gym membership at Southeastern is included in the O2 program? In order to use the gym, all you need to do is fill out a waiver. Throughout the year, there will be hour restrictions based on athletic needs.



## BOOKSTORE<sup>3</sup>

Get geared up in the Southeastern Bookstore with a 10% discount. Save on everything from apparel and gifts, to graduate diploma frames. The discount in the bookstore is available for gifts and merchandise. This discount is also available online at [SEU.edu/bookstore](http://SEU.edu/bookstore).



## FIRE FOOTBALL

Make sure to cheer on the Fire at every home football game and receive 50% off your game ticket when you present your alumni card or place your order online.



## POOL

If you want to stay cool during the hot Florida summers or want to take your kids to a private pool, the Southeastern pool is open to all O2 members. Give us a call at 863.667.5000 to verify the hours of operation before coming.

<sup>1</sup> A form must be completed prior to accessing the online databases in the Steelman Library. In order to participate in this benefit, please email [library@seu.edu](mailto:library@seu.edu) to register.

<sup>2</sup> A waiver must be signed before using the weight room.

<sup>3</sup> Discount is not available on textbooks and personal hygiene items.



For more information, visit: [alumni.seu.edu/O2benefits](http://alumni.seu.edu/O2benefits)



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



KENT J. INGLE, D.MIN.

It is a privilege for us to update you on the health and vitality of our university. Our community is confident and assured in our mission as we maintain a posture of strength as a Christ-centered organization. There is no doubt that this year has witnessed tremendous growth for our university. This advancement of our mission has continued to empower our community to dream visionary dreams. I encourage you to dream alongside us, as we continue to grow to fulfill our mission of equipping students to discover and develop their Divine Design. Our mission is to see our students and alumni equipped to serve Christ and the world through Spirit-empowered life, learning and leadership. I am confident that we are achieving that mission each and every day.

In this issue you will read updates from our alumni as well as other current events happening both on and off the campus. In addition, you will discover first-hand the

dream that is transforming our campus. I invite you to take a look at our future plans for expansion in the center spread of this issue and prayerfully consider how you can be involved as we continue our Fuel the Fire campaign. There is no doubt that with the current campus expansion, our community is being empowered as a premier institution in the world of higher education.

As we continue to dream, we look forward to the opportunities this transformation will bring in the coming academic year. You will read about how Southeastern University is serving our students and the community in Central Florida. This fall we will open a school dedicated to serving students with disabilities through our Pathways School of Excellence. These students will experience our Christ-centered university and the amazing love of God through our students and faculty who will teach and serve them. We also anticipate the continual expansion of construction on campus. During the first week of September, we will celebrate the completion of the new “Buena Vida” building – a structure five and one-half times the size of our Natural & Health Sciences building. This new facility will enable us to accommodate a great number of students and faculty and continue to expand our academic programs. I look forward to hearing the stories of our students growing academically and spiritually inside the classrooms and residential spaces of this building.

In addition to the updates you will read in this magazine, I believe it is important to take time to reflect. There is no doubt that God has blessed our community. In May, SEU received a significant donation from Mr. James Jannetides, founder and CEO of University Loft Company. Needless to say, this gift was God’s direct affirmation of our

mission. In April, we opened an expansion to our Student Activities Center. We are extremely proud of this beautiful facility and the opportunities it will offer through hosting academic and athletic events. In sports, our women’s softball and basketball teams both experienced historical seasons. The women’s basketball team secured the first regular season Sun Conference championship in program history and secured the first conference tournament championship in program history. As you know, at the end of every semester, we celebrate another group of talented, highly-trained students as they join your prestigious ranks as Southeastern alumni. We celebrated our 2016 Spring Commencement, which saw the largest graduating class of our university’s history. We were grateful to have Dr. Ben Carson as the graduation speaker, as he encouraged our students to think big and to develop the talents that God has given them. I look forward to seeing them use their talents to further the kingdom. These are just a few highlights of the blessings that God has poured on SEU.

In the midst of growth, we continue to hold to our God-given vision of developing leaders that truly change our world. At the heart of all we do is a desire to serve our students because we are a Christ-centered, student-focused institution. We dream that our students will be propelled into a lifetime of serving the world as Christ did. Our commitment extends to these students not only when they attend classes on campus, but also when they become one of our esteemed alumni. We hope that you will continue to dream and pray along with us as we continue to live out our mission.

May God bless you and open many more doors for you as you continue on your own divinely designed journey.







at Southeastern University

## Dynamic, Experiential Training for Ministry Leaders

- Earn a **Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership (MAML)** degree with a concentration in church planting
- Blend of online course work and site visits to cutting-edge churches committed to church planting, including:



New Life Covenant in Chicago, Illinois  
*Pastor Wilfredo "Choco" De Jesus*



National Community Church in Washington, D.C.  
*Pastor Mark Batterson*



Church of the Highlands in Birmingham, Alabama  
*Pastor Chris Hodges*



Trinity Church in Miami, Florida  
*Pastor Rich Wilkerson Sr.*



New Life Church in Conway, Arkansas  
*Pastor Rick Bezet*

Visit [SEU.edu/churchplantU](http://SEU.edu/churchplantU) or call 800.500.8760 for more details.

"Church planting is essential to spreading the Gospel by empowering ministry leaders to reach the world in their God-given ministry context. Southeastern is committed to providing emerging leaders with an unmatched education coupled with developmental leadership experiences to ensure the success of the church-planting movement."

—DR. KENT INGLE, PRESIDENT

## GET EQUIPPED THROUGH ONE OF SEU'S MANY GRADUATE PROGRAMS

### Behavioral & Social Sciences

Master of Arts in  
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Master of Arts in International  
Community Development

Master of Science in  
Marriage & Family Therapy

Master of Science in  
Professional Counseling

Master of Science in  
School Counseling

### Business & Legal Studies

Master of Business  
Administration

Global MBA

### Christian Ministries & Religion

Executive Master of Arts in  
Ministerial Leadership

Master of Arts in  
Ministerial Leadership

MA (Theological Studies)

Master of Divinity

### Education

Master of Education in  
Arts & Academic  
Interdisciplinary Education

Master of Education in  
Educational Leadership

Master of Education in  
Elementary Education

Master of Education in ESE

Master of Education in  
ESE/Educational Therapy

Master of Education in  
Reading Education

Master of Education in TESOL

### Doctoral Programs

Doctor of Education

Doctor of Ministry





The time had finally arrived – a defining moment in my life was two, albeit long, flights away. I had just finished the last of my many emails before the trip and watched as my checked luggage was on its way through security. The Alumni and Friends Israel Adventure trip was on! I expectedly boarded the plane acknowledging what I already knew, that defining moments in our lives reveal our character and the essence of who we are; what we do with those moments, more often than not, sets the pace for who we become. Though my faith was never in question, this defining moment would certainly solidify what I already believed.

Individuals, groups of people, nations and organizations all go through defining moments in life. They come in all shapes and sizes. Some have shaped nations, such as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, or Martin Luther King, Jr., declaring, "I have a dream...." Other defining moments happen when a couple exchanges vows in the covenant agreement of marriage. Possibly it was in a labor, delivery and recovery room of a hospital when you are hit head-on as reality emerges, breathing, kicking and screaming.

## DEFINING Moments

For some, a defining moment may come when one hears the words *tumor* or *cancer* or comes face to face with the brevity of mortality while standing graveside as a beloved family member or friend is lowered back into the earth. Or when time froze as the events of September 11th started to unfold. For the believer, a defining moment happened the moment you surrendered your life back to the Father.

While sitting on the Sea of Galilee, set out from Tiberius, I looked around the shoreline meditating on how Jesus' ministry to the people he touched set their life's trajectory forever. From the feeding of the five thousand, to the deliverance of the man with demonic spirits, Jesus used his life to help others find their defining moment.


I think about the many defining moments in Christ's life. That moment he laid aside his deity to clothe himself in the garment of humanity – knowing full well what he had to do. Or the moment he performed his first miracle in Cana of Galilee, turning water into wine. But the crux of Christianity would lay vulnerable to a wooden cross. Every prophetic word written about the Messiah had come to fulfillment. Had the story ended there, the defining moment would have been nothing more than a great story and the loss of an incredible, selfless man.

The greatest defining moment in history came when the gravestone was rolled away and a living Savior rose to conquer not only death, but hell and the grave itself.


Christ became the unblemished sacrifice so that we could have eternal life. It is in this conquest that humanity's ultimate defining moment is assured that we have a Blessed Hope for the forgiveness of sins and life eternal. All hope, all healing, all security, all life rests in Christ's ultimate defining moment.

Our great university has gone through numerous defining moments throughout our history. As you are about to read, we are endeavoring to continue to create defining moments as an organization for the sole purpose of preparing students academically, spiritually, and socially, for a life of kingdom-minded service. As our president, Kent Ingle, so eloquently states, "Our mission is to help students in discovering their Divine Design."

Every building project, every hour spent, every block laid, would have little meaning if not for the kingdom principles taught by our faculty in the classroom, exemplified by our diligent staff, and led by our university's leadership. Be encouraged today, that more than ever, our mission is alive, focused and sharp. Our alumni and students alike are impacting lives around the world so that others can discover the ultimate defining moment for their lives.

As you continue to read and see all that is happening on your campus, take a moment to prayerfully consider how you can generously help Southeastern in continuing the cause in our next defining moment. Join with us in our campaign to continue to "Fuel the Fire." 





# DEFINING MOMENT

— the time that  
shows very clearly  
what something  
is really about.

Sea of Galilee on the morning we “set sail” to one of my life’s defining moments

If you would like to join us on the next Alumni and Friends Israel Adventure trip,  
please visit [TheIsraelAdventure.com](https://TheIsraelAdventure.com).





Every day someone in the world experiences a phenomenon called “a coincidence.” These apparently random events seem to, at times, warm our hearts and in many cases signal a moment when God divinely orchestrates a series of events to get our attention so that he can speak a word to us. In these moments, we should ask the question: “*What is God saying?*”

Recently, our Sunday School class decided to study the book of James only to find out that our Pastor Wayne Blackburn was going to begin a series in the book of James titled “*A Faith that Works.*” As you might imagine, our hearts were warmed to experience this apparent coincidence. As we studied both through the weekly Sunday school lesson and the reinforcing sermon from our Pastor, we were challenged to embrace the idea of a very practical faith that works. Interestingly enough, a friend of our family came to visit our home on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. You can imagine

## A FAITH that WORKS

how amazed we were to discover that the church in which he pastors had begun a series in the book of James. Even more astonishing was the fact that the very chapter and verse that we started on that day—he likewise started on: James 2:14. “*What good is it if someone claims to have faith and has no deeds?*” After I shared with him the other coincidences of James, we both affirmed that the Lord was speaking. We concluded by agreeing that it was time for the “*Church to be the Church.*”

Since the commencement of this study in James, I was led to open our weekly subcontractor meetings on the Southeastern campus with a devotional and prayer. I knew that it might not be popular, but during prayer I felt the fallacy of having built such significant structures on campus for God’s glory and not one worker give their life to God. I felt that if this occurred, we would have missed the boat. What happened next was nothing short of a miracle.

Every week, at least one worker came to me to share the exhilaration and inspiration that they felt at witnessing this type of public expression to God on a construction site. One worker said to me: “*In 47 years, I have never witnessed this on a construction site.*” It was the worker that came to me this past Wednesday that knocked me to my knees. His name

is Sam and he said that he had gotten saved when he was a teenager and that he had not been to church in years, as he and his wife had been turned off by the hypocrisy in the church. He said that after sharing with his wife the events that were happening on campus, he wanted to rededicate his life to God and attend church again. He asked for my church name and address and promised to be there on Sunday.

Now, if this was all that had happened, it would have been wonderful, but he then raised his hand to show me proof that he knew the Lord once and on his wrist was a tattoo with the inscription: James 4:8. I told him that he was “*The One*” that all of this was for. I shared the coincidences as his eyes swelled with tears.

Today, I challenge each of you to make a difference for at least one student. Many come from all across the country, not knowing how they will pay for their tuition, room or board. The University does so much to help each one, but it is those of us who have received the benefits and beauty of SEU that should “*pay it forward,*” by making life happen for “*The One.*”

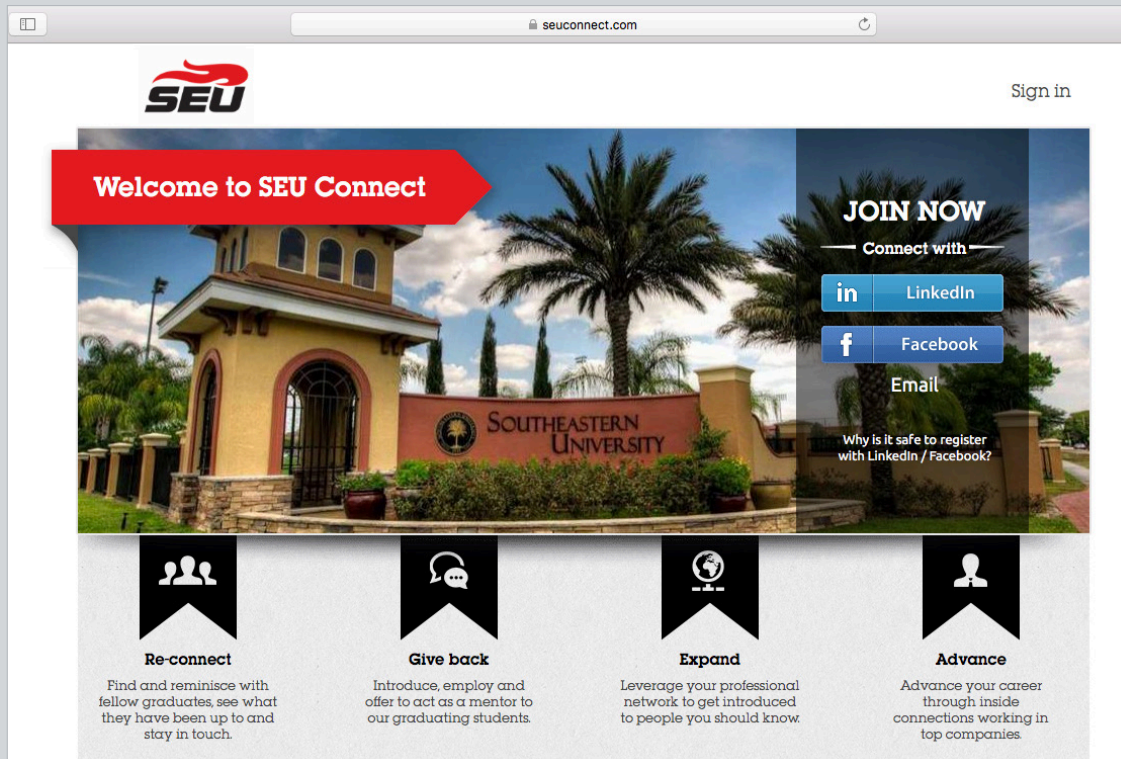
I pray that you enjoyed this testimony on a Faith that Works as much as I enjoyed sharing it.





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Where your career, classmates, and college collide. **JOIN TODAY!**



## Through SEU Connect you can:

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- Find employment opportunities on the job board
- Post a position if your organization is looking to hire
- Learn the latest news from SEU



Join today at **SEUConnect.com**.

Questions? Email us at [alumni@seu.edu](mailto:alumni@seu.edu) or call 863.667.5400.



# ON CAMPUS







## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

The first class of Southeastern University's new Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program will start this upcoming fall with a cohort of 15 to 20 students. The Doctor of Ministry is the highest degree for people in vocational ministry, such as pastors, associate pastors, chaplains, missionaries, and those in denominational leadership and parachurch ministry. This will be the second doctoral degree to be offered at Southeastern, following the introduction of the Doctor of Education in 2014.

"SEU has been recognized in recent years as the leader in Pentecostal scholarship, the fastest growing Pentecostal university, and the largest university ever in the Assemblies of God. Southeastern is postured to deliver the most innovative and effective D.Min. available," said Dr. Alan Ehler, dean of the college of Christian ministries and religion.

D.Min. courses will consist of a blend of live intensive, online, and individually mentored coursework. Students will meet for five five-day intensive sessions over the first two years of the program. The program will offer individualized contextual ministry courses, in which each student will be partnered with a faculty mentor to develop a project related to a ministry problem or opportunity in his or her ministry.

The director of the program is Dr. Jim Vigil. Prior to coming to Southeastern, Vigil served as the lead pastor of Niagara Falls First Assembly. He also served at Central Bible College as a professor and as the vice president for student development for 17 years. He has worked as a church planter, counselor, young adult pastor, educator, and clinical chaplain.

"I see this unique program strategically shaping and producing 'church doctors,' not only graduates with the academic insights to assess and diagnose the welfare of the church or ministry, but graduates who personally exemplify what health is relationally, spiritually, intellectually as well as ministerially within the body of Christ. Through a cohort system, it is expected that students will formulate a comprehensive understanding of ministry, refine their skills and competencies, and contribute to the current practice of contemporary ministry," said Vigil.

Applicants for this degree must have earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree or an equivalency. For more information about this program, please contact George Zivkovich, graduate enrollment counselor, at 863.667.5510 or email [grzivkovich@seu.edu](mailto:grzivkovich@seu.edu).





# PATHWAYS

SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

When students return to campus this fall, they will not only be met with new buildings, but also a new group of high school and middle school students. This fall Southeastern University will open Pathways School of Excellence. The program at Pathways will be specifically tailored for students in middle and high school, and post-secondary transition with disabilities. The school will be housed in the Education building at Southeastern.

The curriculum will be designed for students with intellectual disabilities and other mild learning and physical disabilities. The mission of Pathways is to equip learners for growth and success in academic, personal, and spiritual life.

“Pathways is an extension of what Southeastern is already doing through empowering students to live out their calling. At Southeastern we are dedicated to equipping our students to live out their divine design through a Christ-centered, student-focused institution,” said Southeastern President Kent Ingle. “We look forward to partnering alongside the Pathways students and parents to provide a quality education for these students.”

According to Executive Vice President Brian Carroll, “The Pathways school

ties in with Southeastern’s core values to serve the needs of our community.”

The academic calendar of Pathways will be the same as Southeastern’s fall and spring semesters. Students will have the opportunity to eat lunch in the campus restaurant. Most of the students will be from the Polk County area.

Pathways director, **TERRI (WORTH) PATON ’85, ’09 MED**, currently serves as an assistant professor of education at Southeastern. The school administration will also consist of an administrative assistant, a middle school teacher, high school teacher, postsecondary transition teacher and paraprofessionals.

“In our opening year, we hope to serve our students by helping them to grow academically, personally, and spiritually. We hope to serve approximately 30 students in a loving, Christ-centered environment in which the students thrive. We hope to show that a collaborative university setting is conducive to student growth, both for Pathways students and Southeastern University students,” said Amy Bratten, dean of the college of education.

Various colleges and departments on campus will also support and partner with this program. The college of

education field study students will be working with the Pathways students to implement what they are learning in their coursework. The college of arts and media will help design and implement hands-on art and music experiences for the students. The college of Christian ministries and religion will partner with the school for individualized, small group, and whole group chapel experiences. The college of behavioral and social sciences will help develop and implement trainings and seminars developed for specific needs of parents, siblings, and caregivers of students with disabilities. The college of natural and health sciences will provide parent and Pathways faculty training. The department of human performance and sport studies will provide Pathways with a PE coach as well as plans for adaptive PE.


“Southeastern students will have many opportunities for experiential learning as the colleges’ collaboration with Pathways School of Excellence fosters relationships and provides real-world scenarios in which SEU students can apply and reflect upon their learning. Many of our students are going into careers that require working with people, and Pathways will allow our students the opportunity to learn what it’s like to work with individuals with disabilities,” said Bratten. 





Photo: Scott Wheeler/The Ledger



Photo: Scott Wheeler/The Ledger



Photo: Scott Wheeler/The Ledger

## COLLEGE OF ARTS & MEDIA HOSTS DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL FLORIDA

How does one tag a sold out stadium audience of drum corps enthusiasts, 1,500 marching artists of ages 16 - 21, and an exhaustive trail of busses, semitrailers, and moving trucks convening on the campus of Southeastern University? Drum Corps International (DCI) Central Florida, of course.

In addition to providing arts programs of distinction, the College of Arts & Media has been intentional in expanding its breadth of programming. Hosting DCI demonstrated action to purpose and proved to be an epic opportunity for Polk County, Southeastern University, and the College of Arts & Media. The marching music competition was the first ever in Polk County. DCI, *Marching Music's Major League™*, annually organizes the DCI Tour which features more than 50 marching music ensembles that travel across the country to perform and compete at more than 100 events including the season-ending DCI World Championships in Indianapolis.

“It’s been four years since the DCI Tour has stopped in Florida, and we were very excited to make Lakeland the very first show in this three-event series,” said DCI executive director and CEO Dan Acheson. “The administration at Southeastern University has been incredible to work with in organizing and making this event possible.”

The benefits of hosting DCI were numerous. No doubt, it provided the College of Arts & Media with unparalleled marketing. DCI has long been unrivaled as a marching music and performing arts professional development venue for band directors. In addition to visiting rehearsal sites as a means for teaching or providing inspiration to students, many directors also attended the competition with their students, thus providing another benefit.

This competition, which took place July 9, featured eight performing ensembles, including a number of perennial DCI World Championship finalist corps. The lineup included performances by the *Bluecoats* (Canton, OH), *Boston Crusaders* (Boston, MA), *The Cadets* (Allentown, PA), *Crossmen* (San Antonio, TX), *Heat Wave* (Inverness, FL), *Jersey Surf* (Camden County, NJ), *Legends* (Kalamazoo, MI), and *Spirit of Atlanta* (Atlanta, GA). Final tabulations placed the *Bluecoats* first, *The Cadets* second, and *Crossmen* third.







Alexis Quinn (center bottom of photo) and her volunteers for K2BK

## ALEXIS QUINN'S FIGHT AGAINST SCHOOL BULLYING

**ALEXIS QUINN '16** never imagined where tennis would take her. A native of Tampa, Fla., she moved an hour away to the centrally located city of Lakeland to attend Southeastern University on a tennis scholarship. Her sophomore year of college, she had an urge to get involved in the community.

In September of 2013, Lakeland made national news. Rebecca Sedwick, 12, a seventh grader at Crystal Lake Middle School, committed suicide after being bullied for over a year. The bullying issue had finally surfaced, but little action was taken. Some schools in Polk County, Fla., decided to create "bullying boxes," where anonymous notes about bullying could be left. Alexis took a different approach and decided to get personal.

"Rebecca Sedwick jumped off a cement plant early one morning. It hit national and local news. *Cosmopolitan* had a five-page spread on it," said Alexis. "There was a lot going on to try to create awareness, but there was not a lot of action being taken to combat the issue. I always wanted to get involved with something outside of athletics, but I

did not know what that was. The Sedwick situation was a defining moment for me."

Alexis didn't hesitate to get involved. As a finance and marketing major, she started an initiative, Kool 2 B Kind (K2BK), with **CODEY YINGLING '15**, a former baseball player at Southeastern. The two spent a month developing the initiative through the university's Enactus program and asking local schools if they could host events to create awareness. "Our first event was a big learning experience. It was great to see that the schools did want it. We weren't just doing something because of a tragedy; it was because other people saw the need too," said Alexis.

Two years later, Alexis' initiative has made an impact on local schools. With a team of 12 to 15 students, K2BK hosts several events at local schools each year. The two- to four-hour events include activities for local elementary and middle school students, such as face painting, sports, poster making, and dancing. The events end with a 45-minute speaker discussing the issue of bullying.

"What makes us proprietary to other individual campaigns is that we use college athletes. Elementary and middle school students look up to college athletes and really respect and understand what they are saying. I think that is really important," she said. Over 150 athletes from Southeastern volunteer to be mentors to the students. This past April, Alexis hosted her largest event for the city of Lakeland in partnership with Jaylen's Challenge, a non-profit organization located in Lakeland that is dedicated to promoting awareness and prevention of bullying. Schools in Polk County were invited to Southeastern's Victory Football Field for an event with a concert and 5K run. Since the start of K2BK in 2013, over 3,000 students have pledged to help end bullying in their schools.

Although Alexis is not certain of what she will do after graduation, she is excited for the future of K2BK. In the near future, she hopes to see it taken to a national level where other universities will be doing the same thing in their local communities. She hopes that what started as a local outreach will one day lead to a national fight against bullying.







The SEU Enactus team in Honduras

## SEU STUDENTS INVEST IN OTHERS

This past year, the word of the year for Southeastern students was “For This Purpose.” For SEU Destinations, Southeastern’s missions department, the word of the year was implemented through making a difference in the surrounding community and the world. By the close of the 2015-16 academic year, Southeastern sent out over 400 students on more than 62 missions trips around the United States and the world.

“Destinations serves to give students the opportunity to grow and use their talents to share the grace and love of Jesus in their local communities and throughout the world. Whether a short term trip or becoming a long term missionary, we believe that by investing into the lives of others, we can experience the activity of God which will inspire us to share the Gospel for the rest of our lives,” said **HALEY (McCOLLOUGH) OSBORN ’14**, the Destinations missions coordinator at Southeastern.

One group in particular returned to Choloma, Honduras, for their second time this year to continue the work they have started there. SEU’s Enactus team continued their work on a project called *Neuvo Camino*, meaning “New Path.” “The goal of this initiative is to meet the needs of

various peoples of Honduras by creating and implementing sustainable solutions. In short, it is a business-as-mission endeavor,” said Krista Rogers, the Business Advisory Board Liaison for SEU Enactus. This was SEU Enactus’ seventh trip to Honduras.


Enactus is a global non-profit that consists of university students from all over the world that create change through positive, entrepreneurial action. According to Enactus’ website, their mission is carried out in 36 countries through over 70,000 students and on 1,700 college campuses. They estimate that they are impacting 2 million people around the world. Southeastern has been a part of Enactus for the past ten years.

SEU Enactus partners with Compelled by Christ Ministries (CBC), a ministry that helps to remove girls from harsh situations. During the trip in March, students set up a chicken coop as a source of food and potential profit for the girls at CBC. “Spending time with these girls really motivated me to add a minor in social services to learn how to effectively help people reach their fullest potential,” said sophomore Melissa Roche.

SEU Enactus became aware of this opportunity in Choloma, Honduras,

after the need was brought to the attention of their advisor, Tim Welch. SEU Enactus made their first trip to Honduras in 2013. Since then, SEU Enactus travels to Honduras twice a year.

On several trips the team has met with the mayor of Choloma and his chamber in order to identify specific needs within the city. In the fall, the team established an entrepreneurial club called *My City Movement* at a local high school.

They encouraged the high school students to structure themselves as a mini Enactus team and to take action in their own community. The students elected their own board members and chose to focus on recycling. SEU Enactus keeps in contact with the students every week to offer mentoring and accountability. On the trip this spring, SEU Enactus expanded the *My City Movement* initiative to an additional high school. “Enactus is making an impact in Honduras by meeting tangible needs not just for the short-term, but with the future in mind. We often reference the saying, ‘If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. But if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.’ In keeping with the mission of Enactus, our team is all about empowering others,” said Rogers. 



Dr. Murray Dempster and his wife



Dr. Margaret English de Alminana (Right)

## SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY'S DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR MURRAY DEMPSTER HONORED

During the 45th Annual Conference of the Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS), Southeastern University's Dr. Murray Dempster was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and Dr. Margaret English de Alminana was installed as the new executive director of SPS. The annual conference was held at Life Pacific College in San Dimas, Calif., from March 10 to 12.

Dempster, distinguished professor of social ethics, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award along with Dr. Byron Klaus and Dr. Doug Petersen. The honor celebrated the 25th anniversary of their co-edited book, *Called and Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*.

Southeastern University president, Dr. Kent Ingle, said, "Dr. Dempster has been a longtime mentor and friend to me. There is no doubt that Murray has had a long-lasting impact on my life and on the lives of his students over the years. I'm honored to be considered his friend. He is definitely deserving of this honor."

Dempster has served at Southeastern University since 2010. In addition to teaching, he is the co-director of the Center of Global Pentecostalism. Prior to serving at Southeastern, he served for forty years at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, Calif., in a variety of administrative roles. He served as the president of Vanguard University for eight years, and has written numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, as well as co-edited and co-authored three books.

Klaus retired last summer as a long-time president of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes long-time members of SPS in good standing who have made a significant contribution to Pentecostal research.

SPS members unanimously elected de Alminana, assistant professor of theology, as the executive director of SPS. In her role, she will direct the administrative aspects of the Society. "The fellowship and mutual respect offered to all – even to those who might differ – is a unique feature and a treasure offered at SPS that must be nurtured and protected," said de Alminana. She has authored the book *Removing the Veil* and numerous articles.

SPS was founded in 1970, with the intent "to serve the church world by providing an authoritative interpretation of the Pentecostal Movement." SPS hosts annual meetings every year, where members can meet to present papers, participate on panels, listen to key-plenary speakers, and network with other members. This year's theme was Worship, the Arts, and the Spirit.





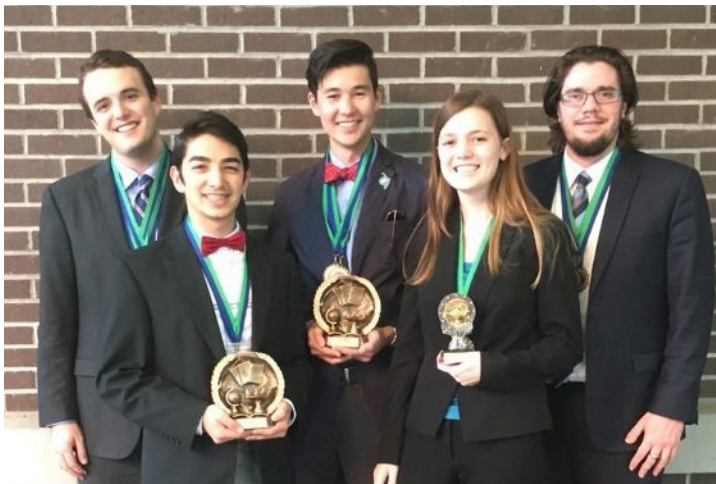


## REVOLUTION FILM FESTIVAL

The College of Arts & Media hosted their 10th annual Revolution Film Festival in February. For the first time, they opened submissions to high schools, colleges, and professionals across the United States. This year's theme was redemption, which centered on the moral transformation of

a main character. The Revolution Film Festival also included workshops with three special guest speakers – Matthew Luhn, an animator and story supervisor at Pixar Animation Studios; Stephan Campbell, a camera operator of AMC's *Walking Dead* and a cinematographer/director of *Sydney*

*White, Monsters Inc.*, and *Zombieland*; and Jordan Reddout, who has worked for HBO, Starz and Fox, as well as *Army Wives*, *The Get Down* and *Mad Dogs*. Be on the lookout for details on next year's Revolution Film Festival.



## SEU DEBATE HAS ANOTHER STRONG SEASON

The SEU Debate team finished their third season strong competing in six tournaments and placing first in five and second in one. SEU Debate recently won the Florida State Championship for the second year in a row, beating rivals University of Florida, Florida State University, and University of Central Florida. SEU Debate's success has earned them invitations from both Harvard and Princeton.

"It's an honor to be able to compete against Ivy Leagues at all; to receive an

invitation from them is a rare honor that is heightened by the team's potential as a serious contender against these renowned and historic teams," said Christina Gard, the SEU Debate team professor advisor.

SEU Debate is a part of the Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association Conference and competed in nineteen tournaments since the inception of the team. They have a team of eight and are one of the smallest teams on the debate circuit.

"This is the strongest that SEU Debate has ever been. At our first weekend, every single one of our debaters advanced to elimination rounds, even our brand new competitors. We've done very well competing against some of the largest state schools in the nation, and now we're looking to take our debates up another level," said **CURRAN MCQUADE '16**, team president of SEU Debate.

ON CAMPUS

# THE FORUM

## 2016 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Southeastern hosted its **10<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum** on Friday, March 18. This year's speakers included James "JB" Brown, three-time Emmy award-winning network broadcaster and host of the *NFL Today* and *Super Bowl 50*; Ron Clark, known to many as "America's Educator" and two-time New York Times best-selling author; Vern Clark, the second longest serving Chief of Naval Operations in history; Peggy Noonan, columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and best-selling author; and Byron Pitts, multiple Emmy award-winning journalist and co-anchor of ABC's *Nightline*.

A Pre-Forum Intensive was held the day before on March 17 with special guest speaker, Dr. Mark Esposito. Esposito teaches business, government and society, and economics at Harvard's Division of Continuing Education and at Grenoble Graduate School of Business in France. Southeastern also hosted a teacher's workshop with Ron Clark, sponsored by MidFlorida Credit Union, for the teachers of Polk County.

The event came to a close on Friday night with the Scholarship Gala fundraising dinner. The special guest speaker was Oliver North, a combat decorated Marine, *New York Times* best-selling author, inventor of multiple U.S. patents, columnist, and the host of *War Stories* on the Fox News Channel. During the Gala, nearly \$200,000 was raised for student scholarships.



Ron Clark





Byron Pitts



James "JB" Brown



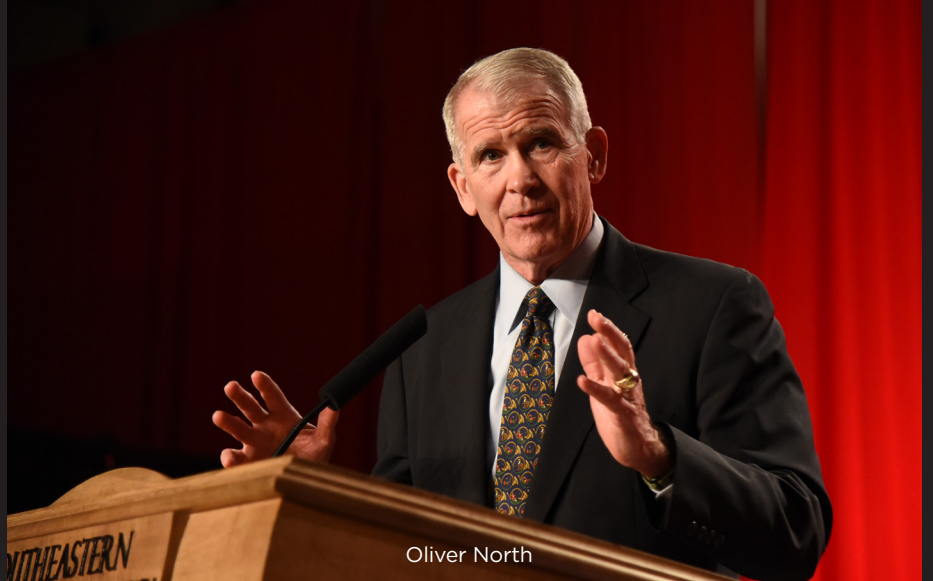
Vern Clark



Peggy Noonan



Mark Esposito



Oliver North





Larry Taylor looks to drive past a Keiser defender on Senior Day.



Ethan Owen (top) scores a technical fall victory over Brewton-Parker's Omar Ruiz during a 38-6 dual meet win.

# ATHLETICS UPDATE



Alyssa Ramos tries a jumper in the lane during national tournament play against Davenport.



Max Nguyen (left) and Jordan Harris celebrate a key doubles victory to help the Fire upset SCAD in the season opener.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

With a thrilling last second victory at St. Thomas, the Fire were off to a great start in the second semester of play. A four-game win streak gave way to just one win in the final nine games to close the season with a 15-14 record, failing to reach The Sun Conference Tournament. Seniors Larry Taylor and Jake Hodges both finished with 1,000 career points and earned second team all-conference honors.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

It was another historic season for the Fire, securing the first regular season Sun Conference championship in program history with a 13-3 mark in the league. The Fire also secured the first conference tournament championship in program history with a pair of wins over Thomas and Webber International. That earned the team a trip to the NAIA Division II National Tournament for the second straight year, where it fell to Davenport in the first round with an

84-61 loss. Junior Christin Strawbridge hauled in numerous individual awards, including The Sun Conference Player of the Year and Second Team NAIA All-America.

## WRESTLING

During the first season of competition for the Fire wrestling squad, two freshmen earned trips to the NAIA National Championships in Topeka, Kan. Ethan Owen finished third at the East Region qualifier to earn an

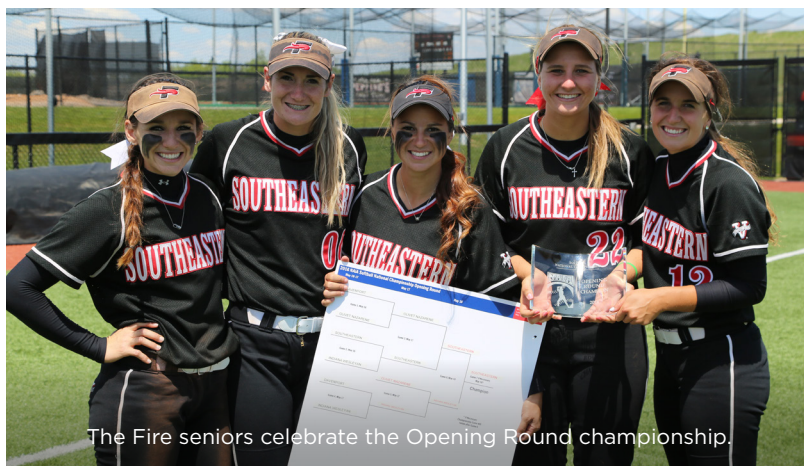




Second Team All-Sun Conference selection Kelsi Black returns a shot against Warner.



Luis Diaz steps into the batter's box against Trinity Baptist.



The Fire seniors celebrate the Opening Round championship.

automatic berth in the 133-pound weight class, and Olson Delisca was awarded a wild card bid, following a fourth place finish at the qualifier. Each won one match during the tournament and went 1-2 during competition. As a team, the Fire finished with a 12-8 dual meet record, including a 3-3 mark in the Mid-South Conference.

## MEN'S TENNIS

With an upset of No. 21 SCAD-Savannah, the Fire earned their first NAIA Top 25 ranking in program history, checking in at 23<sup>rd</sup> in the February 16<sup>th</sup> poll. The team went on to finish the season with a 9-4 record and a 4-2 league record. For a second straight year, the Fire earned a trip to The Sun Conference Tournament,

dropping a 5-1 match to Warner. Senior Drew Dickens repeated as The Sun Conference Champion of Character for the sport, and Lucca Marcheschi and Jordan Harris were selected second team all-conference.

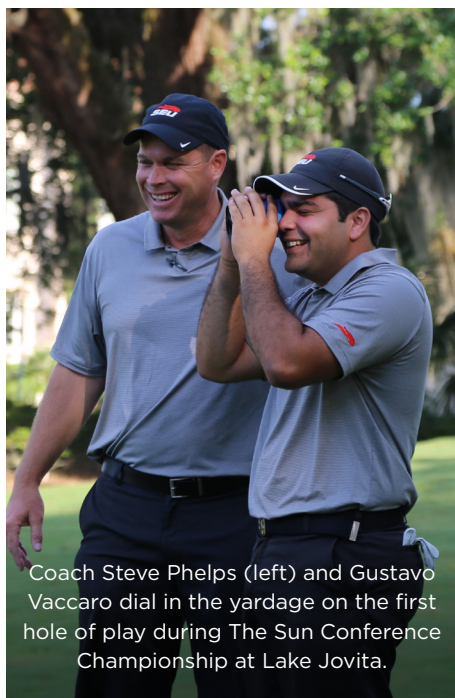
## WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Fire rattled off five straight wins after a season opening loss to fourth-ranked SCAD-Savannah, but finished the year with a 7-9 record. The team spent most of the season ranked in the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Poll, climbing as high as 19<sup>th</sup>. Among the postseason honors, Alexis Quinn was named The Sun Conference Champion of Character for the third straight year, and also was named the Arthur Ashe Award for Leadership and Sportsmanship by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

## BASEBALL

Playing one of the tougher schedules in the NAIA, the Fire went 35-21 and finished 13-11 in The Sun Conference. The Fire played 19 games in the regular season against teams ranked in the NAIA Top 25. Southeastern went 1-2 during the conference tournament, starting with an upset of St. Thomas 11-6 before bowing out with losses to Keiser and USC Beaufort. Seven players earned all-conference recognition, including Mike D'Acunti, Chris Mattison, Luis Diaz, and Derek Martin earning first team honors. Additionally, Josiel Colon, Angel Garced and Mattison earned Gold Glove recognition.





Coach Steve Phelps (left) and Gustavo Vaccaro dial in the yardage on the first hole of play during The Sun Conference Championship at Lake Jovita.



Andrea Lopez looks to reach the green during play at The Sun Conference Championship.

## SOFTBALL

The Fire enjoyed a historic season on the softball diamond this year, repeating as Sun Conference regular season champions, and earning an at-large bid and a return trip to the NAIA National Championship Opening Round. As the top seed of the four in Grand Rapids, Mich., the Fire went 3-0 to claim the Opening Round title and advance to the NAIA World Series. The Fire picked up a pair of upsets against No. 3 seed St. Gregory's and two-time defending national champion Auburn Montgomery. Following losses to eventual finalists Saint Xavier and Oklahoma City, the Fire were eliminated and finished in third place.

## MEN'S GOLF

The first SEU program to ever appear in an NAIA National Championship made a return to the national championship during the 2016 season. The Fire earned an at-large bid to TPC Deere Run for the

championship, finishing the season with a Coaches' Poll rating of 11<sup>th</sup>. Junior Gustavo Vaccaro finished in a tie for fourth individually, and sophomore Carlos Ardila was tied for 28<sup>th</sup>. The Fire also secured a third place finish at The Sun Conference Championship with Ardila in a tie for second individually. He also earned Third Team All-America honors, becoming the first Fire golfer to earn this recognition.

## WOMEN'S GOLF

In all three seasons of competition, the women's golf team has won an invitational title. The women's golf team won the Faulkner Invitational in the fall and won the Warner Invitational in February. The season finished with a fifth place finish at The Sun Conference Championship held at Kinderlou Golf Club in Georgia. The team received votes in the postseason NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Poll.



## FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**9/1/16**

Faulkner University – Montgomery, Ala.  
7 p.m.

**9/10/16**

Virginia University – Lynchburg – Lakeland, Fla.  
7 p.m.

**9/17/16**

Albany State University – Lakeland, Fla.  
7 p.m.

**9/24/16**

Warner University – Lakeland, Fla.  
7 p.m.

**10/01/16**

Edward Waters College – Lakeland, Fla.  
7 p.m.

**10/15/16**

Ave Maria University – Naples, Fla.  
1 p.m.

**10/22/16**

Point University – Lakeland, Fla.  
7 p.m.

**10/29/16**

Webber International University  
Babson Park, Fla.  
TBD

**11/10/16**

Valley City State University – Lakeland, Fla.  
7 p.m.



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Twitter @FireAthletics  
Twitter @SEUFireFootball  
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**2015-16 FIRE HIGHLIGHTS**

- 63 Academic All Conference Awards
- 46 All Conference Athletes
- 7 All Americans
- 6 Champions of Character
- 5 Players of the Year
- 4 Conference Champions
- 3 Conference Tournament Champions
- 3 Gold Gloves



Your donation helps provide student-athletes with opportunities they wouldn't otherwise receive and can help produce more championship-caliber experiences at Southeastern University.

**JOIN THE FIRE CLUB TODAY.**

**440 ATHLETES | 16 SPORTS | 1 FAMILY**

Check it out at: [SEUFire.com/fireclub](http://SEUFire.com/fireclub) or call 863.667.5399





James and Deana Jannetides (left) with his parents Nick and Elaine Jannetides (right) stand in front of the Live/Learn facility which will house the newly named Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership.



## JANNETIDES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

Southeastern University President Kent Ingle announced that University Loft CEO James Jannetides has made a gift to name the university's College of Business. Effectively immediately, the college will be known as the Jannetides College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership. The announcement was made during the May 5<sup>th</sup> bi-annual meeting of the university's Board of Trustees. The gift is part of the \$40-plus million SEU *Fuel the Fire Campaign*.

Campaign proceeds will help fund construction of the five-story live/learn facility, a new administration building, and a track and field facility.

Ingle said the naming recognizes Jannetides' recent lead gift in the university's capital campaign.

The business college will be housed in Southeastern's new live/learn facility, *Buena Vida*, which means "Good Life." The facility is currently under construction and is slated to open to students this fall.

"It's the first of its kind that we know of," said Jannetides, "a university that has an entire college inside a residence hall." Located in the center of the campus, *Buena Vida* has three different food services located within the building

along with classrooms, faculty offices, an auditorium and student housing. Students can sleep, have meals, meet their professors and attend class, all under the same roof.

"James Jannetides is an outstanding entrepreneur and business leader. He has established himself as an exceptional innovator and business developer," said Ingle. "James is passionate about supporting higher education and the students of Southeastern University. It's our privilege to honor James Jannetides and his commitment to empowering students by placing his name alongside the College of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership."

Jannetides comes from a family of entrepreneurs, with both his father and grandfathers starting businesses of their own. The idea for University Loft was formed in 1984 when Jannetides built a loft configuration for his own dorm room at Southern Illinois University. After graduation, Jannetides built his company from the ground up, furnishing college dorms across the country. University Loft currently serves more than 1,200 colleges, universities and related housing partners.

"I am humbled to be a small part of this university's vision. It is my privilege

to support Southeastern University as they grow to meet the future," Jannetides reflected. "To see the quality of bright young people graduating from Southeastern, gives me faith in the forthcoming generation of leaders."

Jannetides believes in the on-campus experience. "This is the best facility that I have seen in my 30 years' experience with 1,200 plus universities. With the curb appeal of a tropical paradise, the excellent staff and professors, and the outstanding student body, this is a perfect match for us to get behind."

Jannetides went on to say, "The Buena Vida facility is a great place to present our prototype safe-zone furniture. It has the integration of steel and laminate with a 60-year lifespan. The most important feature is it's upgradable to take category three bullets. If there were an active shooter on campus, the students can lockdown inside the bed's storage unit or the lockers."

"Jannetides' gift represents a perfect partnership between Southeastern University and the donor," said Brian Carroll, executive vice president. "This type of synergy ensures multiple wins – the university, the donor, the community and most importantly, the students." ➡









# FUEL *the* FIRE

*A Capital Campaign of Southeastern University*



# CAMPUS EXPANSION



The SEU campus has never looked better. This has been perhaps the busiest summer in Southeastern University history as hundreds of workers put the finishing touches on the new living and learning facility, Buena Vida. With the start of another academic year just around the corner, students from across the globe will be coming to campus in early September to launch or continue their journey at SEU.

Working toward the vision of making their journey excellent in every way, Southeastern University will have invested **\$47.7 MILLION** in capital projects since 2013, according to Brian Carroll, executive vice president.

Students, faculty, administrators and visitors can notice changes taking place on almost a daily basis. In just the last 10 months, the Southeastern University community celebrated the completion of three construction projects.



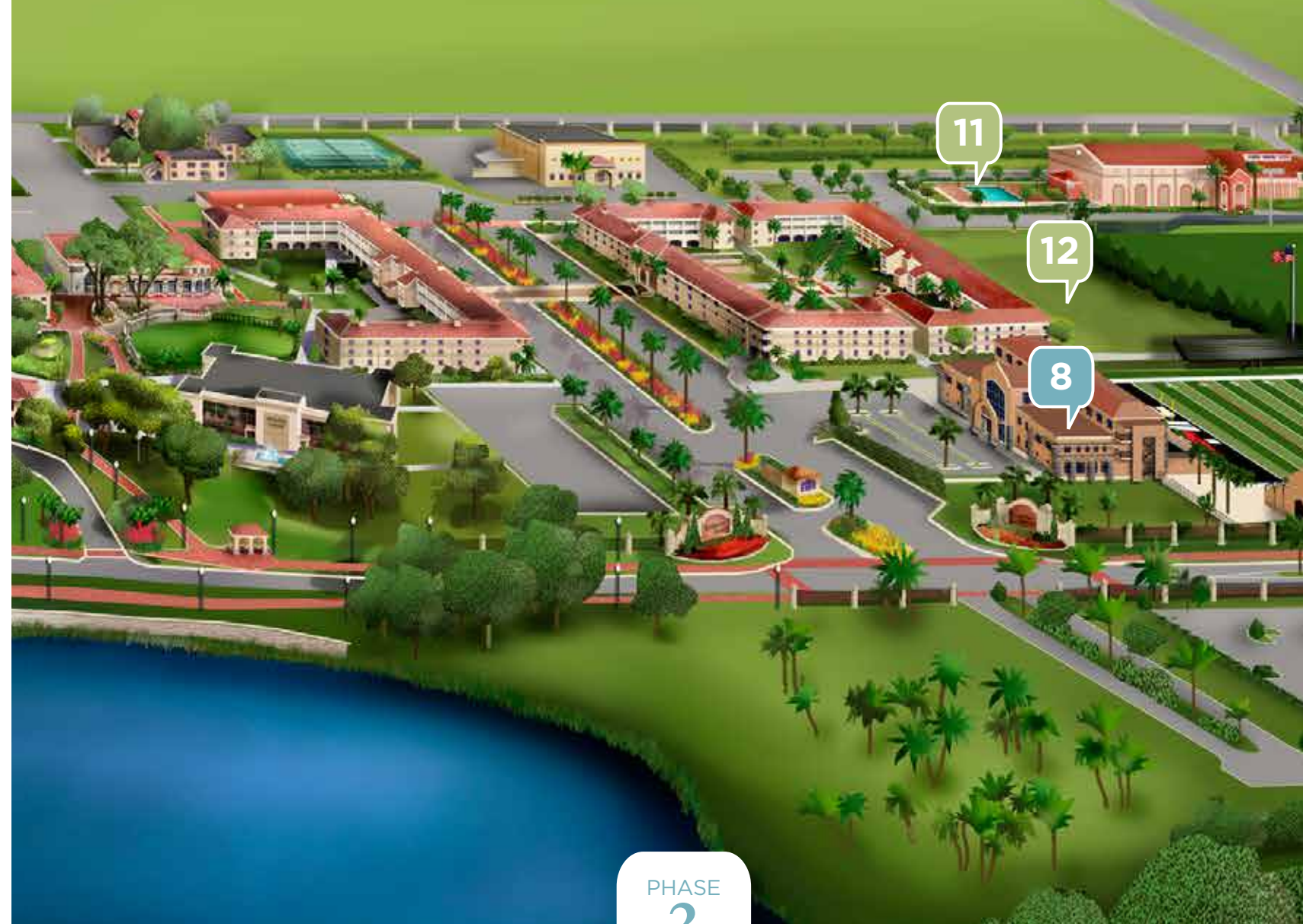


## PHASE 1

Phase 1 started in 2013 and was completed in the fall of 2014. The results of Phase 1 are indicated in orange above.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 PORTICO COFFEEHOUSE</b><br/> <b>Constructed:</b> 2013<br/> <b>Cost:</b> \$75,000<br/> <b>Size:</b> 2,000 sq. ft.<br/> <b>Use:</b> Community gathering place, proceeds support SEU missions</p> | <p><b>3 FIRE FOOTBALL STADIUM</b><br/> <b>Constructed:</b> 2014<br/> <b>Cost:</b> \$7,500,000<br/> <b>Size:</b> 3,500 seats<br/> <b>Use:</b> Home to the Fire football program</p>  |
| <p><b>2 CHICK-FIL-A EXPRESS</b><br/> <b>Constructed:</b> 2014<br/> <b>Cost:</b> \$600,000<br/> <b>Size:</b> 2,275 sq. ft.<br/> <b>Use:</b> Expanded dining options</p>                                 | <p><b>4 COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING</b><br/> <b>Constructed:</b> 2015<br/> <b>Cost:</b> \$6,500,000<br/> <b>Size:</b> 27,000 sq. ft.<br/> <b>Use:</b> Science and mathematics classrooms, nursing program, research laboratory space, faculty offices</p> |





## PHASE 2

Phase 2 is scheduled to be completed in 2017. The construction of Phase 2 is indicated in blue above.

### 5 CHORAL REHEARSAL HALL

**Constructed:** 2015

**Cost:** \$1,100,000

**Size:** 2,441 sq. ft.

**Use:** Ensemble practice room, music classroom

### 6 EXPANDED STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

**Constructed:** 2016

**Cost:** \$2,000,000

**Size:** 26,355 sq. ft. of combined space

**Use:** Gymnasium for academic, athletic and recreational needs; athletic study center; home to Fire wrestling

### 7 BUENA VIDA LIVE/LEARN FACILITY

**Constructed:** 2016

**Cost:** \$22,000,000

**Size:** 140,000 sq. ft.

**Use:** Student housing, faculty offices, classrooms, auditorium, food court

### 8 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

**Construction:** Pending

**Cost:** \$7,000,000

**Size:** 36,000 sq. ft.

**Use:** Executive offices, administrative offices, human resources, business office, banquet room

### 9 TRACK AND FIELD FACILITY

**Construction:** Pending

**Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Use:** 8-lane NCAA track; will enable SEU to host track and field events



“In the midst of growth, we continue to hold to our God-given vision of developing leaders that truly change our world. At the heart of all we do is a desire to serve our students because we are a Christ-centered, student-focused institution. We dream that our students will be propelled into a lifetime of serving the world as Christ did.

—President Kent Ingle”



Phase 3 will begin as funding is available. The upcoming construction of Phase 3 is indicated in green above.

**10 CHAPEL**  
Cost: \$3-5 million

**11 OLYMPIC-SIZE POOL**  
Cost: \$2-3 million

**12 PARKING GARAGE**  
Cost: \$5-7 million



70% of all traditional undergraduate students live on campus, and all of the existing housing is at 100% capacity.



In the last four years, enrollment has increased by 78%.

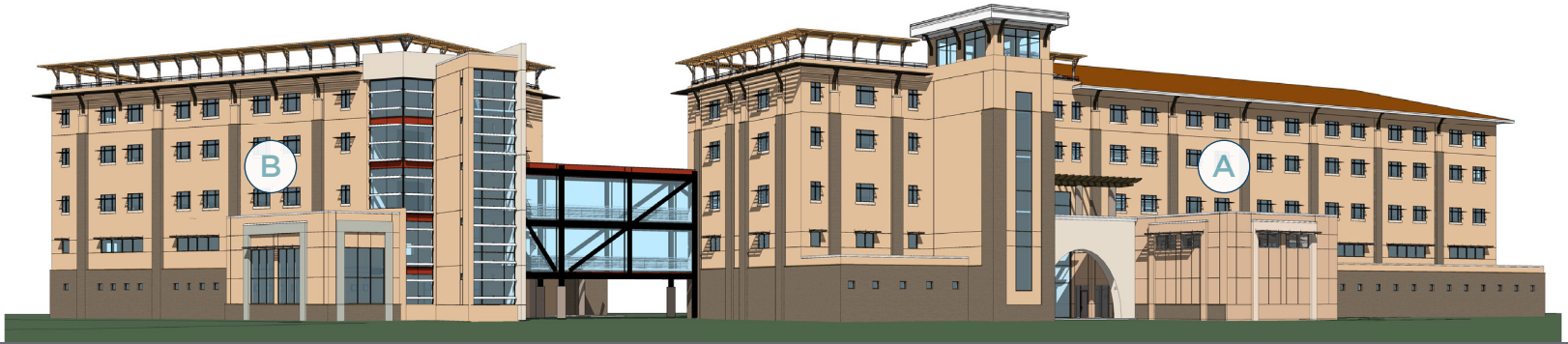


Nearly 1,000 students commute to Southeastern.



Fire Athletics currently compete in eight men's and seven women's programs, in addition to cheerleading.





## BUENA VIDA | New 140,000-square-foot living/learning facility

### BUILDING A

#### FIRST FLOOR

- College of Arts & Media
- Dean's office
- Administrative offices
- Faculty offices
- Practice rooms
- Music business classroom
- Piano lab
- Music library
- Band/orchestra hall
- Percussion studio
- Instrument storage room
- Audio finishing/editing
- Main editing suite
- Color suite/editing
- Visual arts gallery
- 2D/3D art classroom
- Kiln room

#### MEZZANINE

- College of Behavioral & Social Sciences
- Jannetides College of Business & Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Dean's offices
- Administrative offices
- Faculty offices
- Counselor training room

#### SECOND FLOOR

- Classrooms
- Testing and tutoring lab
- Faculty offices

#### THIRD FLOOR

- Student housing
- Laundry room
- Student commons room

#### FOURTH FLOOR

- Student housing
- Student commons room

### BUILDING B

#### FIRST FLOOR

- Classrooms
- Auditorium – 280 seat
- Food court – Einstein Bros. Bagels, Papa John's Pizza, Backyard Burger

#### MEZZANINE

- Student commons room
- Laundry room
- Mailroom

#### SECOND FLOOR

- Student housing

#### THIRD FLOOR

- Student housing

#### FOURTH FLOOR

- Student housing

## BUENA VIDA RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Thursday, September 1, at 10 a.m.

For more information about the event,  
please contact [alumni@seu.edu](mailto:alumni@seu.edu)  
or 863.667.5400.





## ADMINISTRATION BUILDING | Adjacent to the new Fire Football stadium

### FIRST FLOOR

- Reception area
- Staff training room/Conference room
- Human Resources offices
- Business offices
- Additional office space

### SECOND FLOOR:

- Advancement department offices
- Marketing department offices
- Executive office suite
- Multi-purpose conference rooms

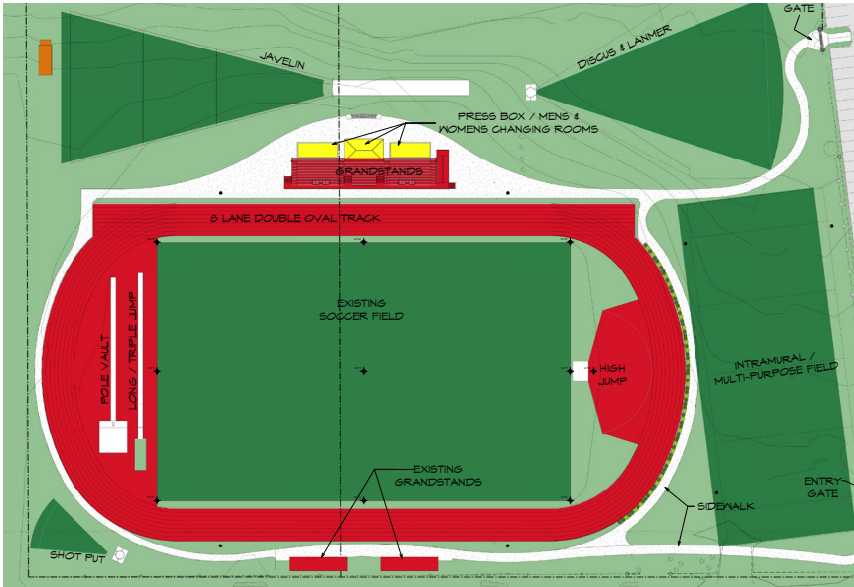
### THIRD FLOOR

- Multi-purpose room with seating for 300
- Kitchen/Catering space
- Storage
- Reception area

### EXTERIOR

- Additional 750 chairback seats at Victory Field





## TRACK & FIELD FACILITIES

NCAA 8-Lane Competition Track

### TRACK FEATURES

- Mondo sport surface with multi radius ends
- Finish line timers
- Pressbox (future)
- Locker rooms (future)

### FIELD EVENTS

- Shot put
- Hammer
- Javelin/discus
- Long jump/triple jump
- High jump/pole vault
- Steeple chase



## PARKING GARAGE

Constructed over an existing retention pond

### FEATURES

- 400 parking spaces
- Will help meet the demand for parking in a centralized area



## CHAPEL

Prayer chapel

### CHAPEL FEATURES

- Seats more than 250 people
- Alternative service and prayer space



## HOW YOU CAN GIVE

**TO FUEL THE FUTURE**, Southeastern University has entered a multi-year \$40-plus million capital campaign that will require the support of many alumni, friends, families, churches, businesses and others. As our student body continues to grow, we have kept pace with that growth through the expansion of buildings and programs on our campus. Your generous support will fund the needs of our students for years to come.

Please:

**PRAY** that God will continue to use Southeastern to equip students to serve Christ and the world. **GIVE** a generous gift to support Southeastern, over and above your annual gift. **INVITE** your friends to consider partnering with Southeastern.

There are many ways to give:

To discuss your gift with an Advancement officer, call 863.667.5020

To give online, visit [www.SEU.edu/giving](http://www.SEU.edu/giving)

If you would like to make a gift with a check, please send your name, address and email, along with your gift to:

Southeastern University  
Office of Advancement  
1000 Longfellow Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL 33801

**\$47.7 MILLION**  
TOTAL PROJECT - PHASE ONE & TWO

**\$4 million** .....  
NEEDED TO COMPLETE PHASE TWO

**\$32 million** .....  
BOARD-APPROVED FINANCING  
TO SUPPLEMENT CAMPAIGN

**\$6 million** .....  
OPERATIONAL FUNDS

**\$5.7 million** .....  
DONOR AND BOARD RESTRICTED FUNDS

  
**FUEL *the* FIRE**  
*A Capital Campaign of Southeastern University*

Want to give toward the completion?  
[www.SEU.edu/giving](http://www.SEU.edu/giving)





## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the

# EXPANDED STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

Southeastern University hosted their ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly expanded Student Activities Center (SAC) facility on April 12. The new facility includes a gymnasium, telescoping bleachers, coaches' offices, multi-purpose room, and a large equipment storage room.

The architectural firm for the project is KCMH Architects and the company constructing the facility is NuJak Development. The addition expanded

the existing space by 15,209 square feet, bringing the total square footage of the facility to 26,355. Construction on the facility began in October of 2015.

In addition to housing the university's wrestling program, the facility will be used to host special events. "The building's versatility is its greatest quality, and it's a perfect addition to our campus," said Drew Watson, director of athletics.

With the advent of the wrestling program at Southeastern, there was a need for competition space for the team. "When we started the design phase of the project, we asked wrestling coaches from around the country what the best facility in the nation was for wrestling. Without fail, they mentioned Cornell," said Watson.

**CHRIS OWEN '93, '06 MAML**, vice president for student development, and Watson traveled to Ithaca along with the architect, Jon Kirk, to take a look at Cornell University's facility.

"Once we saw it, we realized we could build something on campus that not only served the wrestling program but could be used in a variety of ways to help meet other needs on campus," said Watson. "What you will see in the new building is Cornell's facility but with additions that make it a perfect space for hosting admission events, summer rentals, assemblies, and so much more."



# SEU WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES



**LUKE BARNETT**

**Current Position:**  
Senior Pastor of Dream City Church, Phoenix, Scottsdale, Glendale, Ariz.

**Fun Fact:**  
My middle name is Whig, which was also my grandfather Barnett's middle name, for the old conservative Whig political party.

**Hobbies:**  
Golf, hiking, running

**What advice would you give our alumni that hope to pursue a similar career as you?**  
Dream Big! Don't sweat the small stuff.

**What do you look forward to the most about being a part of Southeastern?**  
The amazing leadership culture.



**GOW FIELDS**

**Current Position:** President & CEO of Fields & Company, Inc. d/b/a Fields Insurance & Financial Group, Former Mayor and City Commissioner - City of Lakeland, Fla.

**Academic Degrees:** A.A. Business Administration - Polk State College, B.A. Marketing - University of South Florida, MBA - Nova Southeastern University

**Fun Fact:** I love to teach, mentor and problem solve.

**Hobbies:** Reading, playing golf, engaging in political analysis and discussions

**What advice would you give our alumni that hope to pursue a similar career as you?** Develop a love of reading, continuous learning and continuous improvement. Seek attaining a higher than normal level of understanding of our economic system. It is very beneficial to understand the interrelationships between our economic, political system and financial systems and the associated impact on businesses and their strategic decisions.

**What do you look forward to the most about being a part of Southeastern?**  
I look forward to providing insight and assistance in a meaningful way, and helping Southeastern University carry out its mission and service as an institution with a global reach.



**JEFFERY PORTMAN**

**Current Position:** Lead Pastor at newhope Church Puyallup, Wash.

**Academic Degrees:** B.A. - Northwest Univ., M.A., D.Min. - AG Theological Seminary

**Fun Fact:** I am a twin (youngest by 6 minutes).

**Hobbies:** Athletics, hitting coffee shops, reading

**What advice would you give our alumni that hope to pursue a similar career as you?** Find someone doing what you want to do and apprentice with them. Nothing beats real-time learning.

**What do you look forward to the most about being a part of Southeastern?** Embracing the culture of innovation and lifting the arms of Dr. Ingle and the dynamic team that's been built.



**JUDY RACHELS**

**Current Position:** The Network of Women Ministers in the Assemblies of God National Director

**Academic Degrees:** B.S. Education - Evangel University, M.A. Church Leadership - Vanguard University

**Fun Fact:** By the time I graduated from high school I had attended 16 schools.

**Hobbies:** Reading; traveling; loving my husband, children and grandchildren

**What advice would you give our alumni that hope to pursue a similar career as you?** Keep reading. Take notes. Keep growing spiritually. Accept assignments that are difficult. Work at having a better marriage. Prioritize family. Cherish friendships. Enjoy hobbies. Take some risks. Smile, every chance you get. My mother raised me on this motto: "Good, better, best; never let us rest. Til' our good is better and our better—best." Most important of all, work at being a good servant.

**What do you look forward to the most about being a part of Southeastern?** I want to be part of the exciting growth and visionary leadership now happening at Southeastern. I look forward to working with the Board to reimagine the spectrum of this fine university and how it can rise to its full potential, while holding firmly to the deep spiritual moorings of its foundation.



**DINO RIZZO**

**Current Position:** Executive Director, ARC (Association of Related Churches), Lead Team & Missions Pastor, Church of the Highlands, Birmingham, Ala.

**Academic Degrees:** A.A. Youth Ministry - Jimmy Swaggart Bible College

**Fun Fact:** Part of the "Louisiana Mafia" church planting squad, married a Cajun, love LSU football, Duke football, father of 3 kids - McCall, Dylan and Isabella

**Hobbies:** Golf; traveling; Fire football games; people watching with my wife, DeLynn

**What advice would you give our alumni that hope to pursue a similar career as you?** Be faithful to serve in the small things; be available to God and those you serve; keep a teachable and open heart, mind and spirit to the love and ways of Jesus.

**What do you look forward to the most about being a part of Southeastern?**  
I love the amazing things God is doing among the students. I am looking forward to being able to learn from the leadership team at SEU. It's an honor to learn from their experience, knowledge and exceptional leadership as I help lead an organization of church planters and pastors. SEU is a first-class university in every way.









Kirsti Mutz

**KIRSTI MUTZ '15** dreamed of being on Broadway. She spent her middle and high school years developing her talent. During her junior year of high school she was devastated after a four-year sickness caused her to lose her voice and give up on her dream of pursuing musical theater full-time.

Emma, Kirsti's younger sister, shares the same passion for theater. Born into a family of twelve children, Kirsti and Emma grew up sharing a room and developed a strong bond. Emma, a bold 17-year-old, embraces life wholeheartedly and loves unconditionally. When Emma was born she was diagnosed with Down syndrome.

"Emma is my best friend. She has taught me some of my most core values in life. Who I am is who I am because of Emma. She has taught me to embrace life because she is silly and fun," said Kirsti.

Growing up, Kirsti started to notice that people would treat Emma differently and exclude her. She realized the need to change people's perspectives on individuals with disabilities. "When I lost my hopes and my dreams, I ended up finding new hopes and dreams. I found that God never removes something from my life, without providing something better for my life," said Kirsti.

Over the past few months, Kirsti has graduated from college - in two-and-a-half years, at the age of 20 - and launched a non-profit, People Like Us, in Lakeland, Fla.

"People Like Us is a non-profit that is used to shine light on intellectual disabilities. We do that through using a documentary film. The documentary really is a tool to help relieve people's fears and raise their expectations for individuals with disabilities," said Kirsti.

While a student at Southeastern, Kirsti focused her honor's thesis on people with disabilities and created a documentary as





Cast members of *People Like Us*

part of her project. She wanted to tell her story of having a sibling with a disability. It started with her telling the story of her sister and then grew into the addition of other individuals living with disabilities in Lakeland. Her documentary, *People Like Us*, tells the story of six people with different disabilities and how they overcame society's expectations for them. All six of the cast members share one common passion – the theater.

The *People Like Us* documentary was featured on March 22 in Lakeland's historic Polk Theater. Over 1,000 people filled the theater that night to watch the free documentary as Kirsti shared her hopes and dreams. After the showing, the cast lined up for autographs. The documentary followed various stories of individuals involved in Out of the Box Theater in Lakeland.

**NO ONE ELSE  
will see it AS  
CLEARLY  
or be more  
PASSIONATE  
than YOU ARE.**

Out of the Box Theater was created for people with disabilities. It began when Kirsti was a junior in high school. It spurred from Kirsti's younger sister, Emma, and a few other children like her, who really loved performing, but there was no place for them to perform. Maureen McGowen, the education director of Out of the Box Theater, said she really wanted to start something for people

like Emma to perform. The program started with eight people and now has 60 participants. The budding actors and actresses are taught to dance, sing and act, and then they work on productions to perform for the local community.

"There is so much need for individuals with intellectual disabilities to have a place like that to express themselves. There is a need to open more programs like that," said Kirsti.

Kirsti plans to use the documentary as a tool to share the message with schools, businesses, parents, and theaters. The documentary will be shown in schools in order to help prevent students from bullying others. In businesses it is used to train employees how to work with their coworkers that have disabilities or for employers who are looking to hire someone with disabilities.





Kirsti on set of *People Like Us*

The non-profit is also working on developing it as a tool for parents who find out that their child will be born with a disability. Kirsti hopes it will encourage families to decide to keep their babies. According to Kirsti's research, 86.9 percent of women will terminate their pregnancy after learning the child will be born with Down syndrome. In her research she found that women would vastly base their decision to abort a child on the opinions of their family and friends.

The documentary is also used as a tool in theaters. "Theaters have the capability to help individuals integrate into society and build social skills," said Kirsti. She hopes her non-profit can be a resource for theaters to implement programs similar to the one in the documentary.

"There was never a defining moment for me. It always just seemed like the right kind of thing. It was always this nudge in my heart. Doing something like this for Emma, is like a small gift for her," said Kirsti.

People Like Us is in the early stages of development. Kirsti has put together a board of directors and has several volunteers working for the organization. She works as the executive director of People Like Us and plans to bring on other staff members as it continues to grow. Her goal is to take the program internationally and to see others using this tool to make a difference in the world.

Recently, People Like Us was able to support an organization in China. "Down

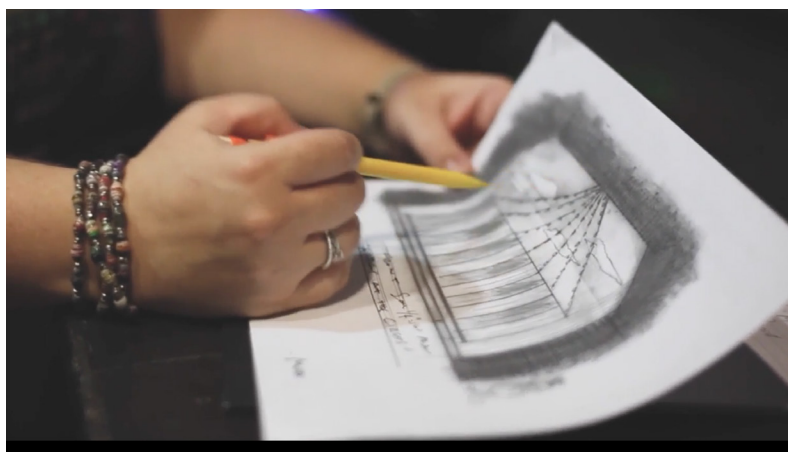
syndrome is associated as 'unlucky' in the Chinese culture. Therefore, many children with Down syndrome are abandoned and since the orphanages are unable to care for them, they quickly die. We were able to learn about the culture and shoot a video to support an organization in China called Grace Village that is building a foster home to care for 11 children with Down syndrome until they can be adopted," said Kirsti.

The dream for People Like Us was birthed in Kirsti three years ago. "I think there is something that everyone can do. What I can do is tell a story. Everyone can do something; it's just doing it. Really we're not asking a lot; we are just asking that you treat them like a person," she said.





Emma Mutz (center)



When Kirsti started the video project, she didn't imagine that it would grow into a tool that would change people's lives. Since the release of the documentary, one of the cast members, who had been searching for a job for years, was offered a job the night of the viewing. Kirsti shares the story of parents who were able to open up to each other about the struggles they faced for the first time since they watched the documentary.

With a bold vision and a heart for seeing lives changed, Kirsti encourages other young students and alumni to step out into their calling without fear. "Don't be intimidated by time and don't strive for big things. I envisioned what this could be for a long time. You just have to push forward into the thing that God is nudging on your heart. No one else will see it as clearly or be more passionate than you are. I genuinely believe that we serve a God that will provide and will take care of us. Provision always follows vision," she said.







# MINISTERING INSIDE THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE

This summer, millions of fans will gather around their TVs, dressed in the colors of their national flag, to cheer on their home country's athletes as they compete in the Rio 2016 Olympics. For many, this is a time to share in the triumphs of their country, but for **LEAHA (ANDERSON) SHAIKH '00** and her husband, Asif, it is an opportunity to share the gospel and encourage the athletes competing in the games.

For the past ten years, Leaha has served alongside her husband in ministry with

Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru) and Athletes in Action. She served as an Olympic chaplain at two Olympic events, including the London 2012 Olympics and the 2015 Pan Am Games. Asif works full-time as a chaplain to athletes and will be attending this year's Olympics in Rio.

"For this next Olympics, we look forward to the reward of seeing the athletes we work with play for an audience of one through glorifying God. We also look forward to seeing who the Lord raises up as new contacts and the opportunity of

building new relationships. Whoever we can reach out to is exciting," said Leaha.

Their journey of ministering to athletes started when Asif and Leaha were working with Cru. "We never set out intending to be chaplains of athletes. One thing led to another. It all came through answering the call. We had to sell our house and move. It was a sacrifice; the main thing I learned was to obey the Lord. When you hear Him calling, you do it," said Leaha.





Leaha and Asif Shaikh

The couple packed up everything they owned, sold their house and moved to Tampa to minister on the campus of the University of South Florida (USF). In the process of trying to find a house, they stayed with friends who were the chaplains of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team. During their stay, they were able to build relationships with some of the Buccaneers players, who eventually helped mentor USF football team players. Asif and Leaha realized there was a need to minister to athletes. They started inviting USF football players to their home for dinner and Bible study.

The opportunity for them to minister to other athletic teams came through relationships they developed on campus. Randy Belli, SEU's women's soccer coach, was serving as the women's soccer top assistant and recruiting coordinator of USF at the time and invited Asif and Leaha to work as the chaplains of the women's soccer team. "I led Bible studies, had one-on-one discipleship with different girls on the team, and I prayed with the team before home games," said Leaha.



In 2010, through networking and developing relationships with different athletes, Asif was invited to be a chaplain during the World Cup in South Africa. "He came back on fire and pumped about this opportunity," said Leaha. This was the first Olympic event that Asif participated in. From there, more doors of ministry opened for them.

The Shaikhs accompanied the athletes they disciplined at USF to a Christian camp for Division I athletes. At the camp Leaha met an athlete in her discipleship

group whose sister competed in the Beijing 2008 Olympics as a heptathlete. One of the women that Leaha had the opportunity to build a relationship with at the camp went on to score the winning goal to take a bronze medal for the women's Swiss hockey team at the Sochi Winter Olympics. Through cultivating that relationship beyond camp, as well as building relationships with other track and field athletes, Asif and Leaha received an invitation to be chaplains at the London 2012 Olympics where they served in the Olympic Village.

In the village, the chaplains were not able to approach the athletes, as the village is multi-faith. "We would be available for prayer. A lot of the athletes are stressed and on edge, so sometimes they ask for a good luck prayer. They might not have been a Christian, but they still want us to pray for them," said Leaha.

Last summer, Asif and Leaha served as the chaplains at the Pan Am Games and they were able to bring their two daughters with them. Leaha made herself available to help Spanish-speaking athletes.





“We tend to put athletes on a pedestal. It is very humbling that the Lord would provide me with the opportunity to minister to athletes. The hardest thing was saying yes to the Lord and sacrificing time, money, energy, and resources. The most rewarding part of what I do is the

humbling feeling that the Lord used me to encourage someone,” said Leaha.

Outside of ministering to athletes, Asif and Leaha are serving as the pastors of a church plant in St. Petersburg, Fla. “We knew the Lord was calling us to plant a church in downtown St. Petersburg. We moved from the Tampa Bay Area to D.C. for a year where my husband, Asif, served as the church planter in residence with National Community Church and Mark Batterson,” said Leaha.

Leaha and her family moved to St. Petersburg in August of 2015 to prepare and launch the church plant in the spring of 2016. Leaha has also pursued ministry through her dream of writing. She recently had the opportunity to be a contributing author for the *NIV Bible for Women: Fresh Insights for Thriving in Today's World*.

While Leaha worked on staff with CRU, she met Lauren Winner, the author of *Girl Meets God*. She shared her desire to write with Lauren and she put her in contact with a friend

of hers who was at the time working as an editor for Zondervan. They met for coffee and kept in touch. A few years later, she invited Leaha to be a part of the project.

“When I was a student at SEU, I remember hearing President Mark Rutland say in

chapel, ‘a dream delayed is not a dream denied.’ As long as I can remember, I’ve wanted to be an author, so my favorite part of this experience is seeing my dream not denied, maybe delayed, but definitely realized,” said Leaha.

Leaha continued her dream of writing through coauthoring a memoir, *Open Doors*, with her husband. “We wrote it to tell the story of God’s redemption in our lives in hopes that we would be able to encourage those who feel hopeless. We both surrendered our lives to the Lord after making bad choices, engaging in unhealthy relationships, and feeling empty through it all. The subtitle reads, “No matter what your past holds, God holds your present and your future.” We want to offer hope to those who have made mistakes. We want them to know that God still has a plan for them,” said Leaha.

Asif was born in Pakistan and converted to Christianity from Islam. He attended Central Bible College and years later volunteered with Chi Alpha. Leaha became a Christian and was discipled through Chi Alpha when she was attending Pennsylvania State University. Her Chi Alpha leader introduced her to Asif and also told her about Southeastern. Leaha transferred to Southeastern to study education. She graduated in the spring of 2000 and married Asif a few months later in July. The couple has been married for 16 years and have two daughters, Makenna (13) and Janessa (10).

Leaha recently transitioned into working full-time as a Spanish teacher at Northside Christian School in St. Petersburg. Leaha encourages others that hope to minister in a similar way to athletes to start at places they have access to. “You have to start on the ground level. Start as a chaplain at your local high school or college, from there, doors will open,” said Leaha. ➡



## CLASS RING RETURNED TO ALUM **40 YEARS LATER**

When **JOHN CHARLES WILLIAMS '79** lost his high school class ring while attending Southeastern, he never imagined that it would be returned to him 40 years later. “All these years, the only possible scenario I could think of was that it had been stolen and possibly sold at a pawn shop,” he said.

In the summer of 2015, after Spence Hall had been demolished, a landscaping crew came in to help pull out the old plumbing. Mike Peterson was a part of that crew. In the middle of working, he noticed something in the dirt – an old tattered class ring with the initials JCW. He put the ring in his pocket with the intention of finding the owner. He and his wife, Betty, cleaned the ring and looked for clues. “We knew in our hearts that we needed and wanted to find the owner of the ring,” said Betty.

After uncovering the school mascot, the Comets, on the ring, they searched the Internet to find a high school match in Pennsylvania. They called the school’s guidance counselor, who gave them the name of a previous student that matched the initials. “The guidance counselor played a big part in helping us locate the owner of the ring. We couldn’t have done it without her,” said Betty.

Without contact information for the individual, the Petersons reached out to Southeastern’s alumni director, **ED MANER '96, '13 MBA**, to see if he could find the owner of the ring. Ed recalled a friend from Pennsylvania with the same name who had attended Southeastern in the 1970s and was able to get in contact with his parents. “We just joked about it with our son this past Thanksgiving – 40 years after it had been lost,” they said. They were able to put Ed in contact with John and the ring was returned.

The Petersons were happy to hear that their long search had ended with the ring returned to the owner. “The Lord is amazing. I don’t know how he lost the ring, but I believe the ring was protected to make its way back to the owner. I am so pleased it was returned to him. It does my heart good,” said Betty.

“Our office is here to help alumni with staying connected to the university; whether that is helping with a career move, ordering a transcript, planning a Homecoming event, or even locating the owner of a lost class ring, we love what we do,” said Ed.



Mike and Betty Peterson





## REINVENTING the Process of Laundry

With a fresh idea on reinventing the process of doing laundry, **LAUREN (BURRIS) START '10, '16 MBA** flew to London to present her idea to Unilever's headquarters during the last week of February. Lauren was one of five winners selected to present her idea from over 150 participants in Unilever's Reinventing Laundry challenge. The challenge encouraged participants to think of ideas on saving water through the laundry process as a large percentage of the world faces water shortages.

"I looked forward to pitching a product to one of the largest consumer packaged goods companies. It was an amazing opportunity. I know that I learned a lot during this experience that I can apply to my career in marketing," said Lauren.

Lauren discovered the challenge after researching jobs at Unilever. With an admiration for Unilever she decided to submit an idea called "Rinse to Clean."

Her proposal is to create a rinse only solution that consumers would use to wash the 60 percent of clothing items that are only lightly soiled. The non-sudsy solution would cleanse and refresh the clothes through only using the rinse cycle. She suggests that this would save both time and money by allowing consumers to set the washing machine directly to the rinse cycle. This method could possibly save up to 75 liters of water per cycle.

"Having one of my ideas selected as a winner made me an even more firm believer in dreaming big. You have to give it your best try, or you will never even have a chance of winning," said Lauren.

Originally from Orlando, Fla., she chose to attend Southeastern for her undergraduate degree after having friends attend before her. "I visited on an SEU Preview Day to learn more about the school. I felt welcomed by

the community and excited to learn in a Christian environment," said Lauren. She met her husband, **DONN "DJ" '10, '16 MBA**, during their freshman year of college at the beach volleyball court at Southeastern. They dated for three years before getting married. This July they celebrated six years of marriage.

After graduating with a degree in business management, Lauren worked for two advertising agencies for five years in Atlanta. Lauren and DJ returned to Southeastern in 2015 to enroll in the accelerated master's of business administration program and graduated this past April.

Lauren and DJ returned to Atlanta to continue their careers. DJ is working as a benefits operation manager in Atlanta. ➡





Left to right: Caleb Winters, Joy Clifton, Grace Kilgore, and Ken Winters



# SEU FATHER AND DAUGHTER HAVE A PASSION TO HELP OTHERS

**JOY (WINTER) CLIFTON '10, '12 MSPC** and her father, Kenneth Winter, have a passion to help others. With a similar desire, Joy and Ken decided to pursue degrees in counseling. Joy graduated with her master's degree in 2012 and her father followed in her footsteps enrolling in the master's of professional counseling program in the fall of 2015.

"Southeastern has brought us together in a different way. It's been an interesting journey since my dad has all of this life experience, and I have all of the technical experience," said Joy.

Joy is a licensed mental health counselor and works as a child and adolescent counselor at Highland Park Church of the Nazarene in Lakeland, Fla. Straight out of college, Joy worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) for three years. She worked with teenage boys who had been involved in substance abuse.

"Southeastern's counseling program prepared me so well to work in both a secular and Christian environment. They did a good job of intertwining the two. I felt adequate in both environments. I was successful to be career ready. I still use knowledge I learned from different classes I took on campus," said Joy.

She also helps her husband, Nolan, youth pastor at Village Church of God in Winter Haven. Joy and her husband recently completed their ordained minister's license through the Church of God. She has had the opportunity to apply her knowledge from DJJ into

the youth group with her husband. Joy also works as an adjunct professor in the college of behavioral and social sciences at Southeastern.

"My daughter went through the program and it has been a great opportunity to have her as a sounding board for the tough times. I loved being able to talk to Joy about what I learned. It has been very intriguing and invigorating," said Ken. He recalls the times she would call him on her two-hour drive home from work to talk about her day and what she had learned from her work.

Joy credits her desire to pursue counseling to her parents. "My parents motivated me to do what I am doing now. They were always loving and serving other people. I knew I wanted to help people," said Joy.

Over the years, Ken has started different businesses and most recently worked in real estate. Ken never intended to pursue his education further, until his wife decided she wanted to get a degree in counseling. "We thought it would be great to open a counseling center," said Ken. The two of them began studies at Trinity College with that goal in mind. However with the overload of busyness, his wife decided to drop out of school. When Ken found out he would be limited by his degree to be a counselor, he too dropped out and looked somewhere else.

Joy encouraged him to pursue his counseling degree at Southeastern. "I saw how problems were solved through counseling. I was originally blinded to its potential," said Ken. In the late summer of

2015, Ken filled out all of the paperwork and applied to the program. He plans to use his degree to help his church, Plant City Church of God. "I want to be able to help as much as possible. I also want to teach," said Ken.

Ken is the father of seven children. While his children were growing up, they also housed foster children. Due to his heart for children and families, his church often petitioned him to help counsel couples and families. "All of our kids are helping people. We pushed them to reach out," he said.

Ken is the fourth person in his family to attend Southeastern. His son Caleb is a kicker on the football team and is pursuing a degree in church and family ministries. His daughter **GRACE KILGORE '12** graduated with a degree in social work.

"The Lord opened a door for me to come here. In everything I do, I give it my all. I hope students can learn that from me," said Ken. He plans to graduate with his master's degree in the spring of 2017.

"Both Joy and Ken are those kind of students who eagerly seek more skills and knowledge so that they can use them to serve those in need. They are passionate about what they do and challenge their colleagues and professors in a very positive way. In a sense, we have to work to keep up with them. This is an encouraging experience for us all as well as wonderful for their own growth both spiritually and professionally," said Dr. Clifford Hurndon, chair of the counselor education programs.







### REMEMBERING JACK CRAMER

Over 70 alumni gathered on campus on January 23 to commemorate the life of **JACK CRAMER '77**. He passed away on September 7, 2015. Jack was the first basketball player in Southeastern's history to score 1,000 points. After graduating from Southeastern, Jack served as a school psychologist for the Cobb County School System for several years before he started his own practice as a child psychologist in Roswell, Ga.

Alumni enjoyed time together at an SEU basketball game, with a halftime ceremony dedicated to Jack. A banner was hung in commemoration of Jack's life and his jersey was retired at this event. Following the basketball game, alumni enjoyed a dinner with athletic director Drew Watson and basketball coach R-Jay Barsh.





REGIONAL REUNIONS

This year the Alumni Road Trip took us to Birmingham, Ala.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Concord, N.C.; and Nashville, Tenn. Alumni also traveled on a tour of Israel. Take a look through these photos and see who you recognize! Be on the lookout for additional Road Trips in a city near you next spring.





# DAVID EUGENE STEWART SR.

# FAMILY LEGACY

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**DAVID STEWART '57** still has a letter he sent home to his parents during his first year of college in November of 1954. His slightly faded letter, written in perfect cursive, gives an account of a revival on campus his freshman year of college. "It was too good to keep to myself. It is something I will never forget," said David.

It was around that time that David felt called to be a missionary to India. He had originally planned to attend Southeastern for one year and then transfer to a state school to study electronic engineering. Soon after the service, he changed his major to missions.

David met his wife, **LOIS (PERRY) '57**, while attending Southeastern. Lois had been called to missions at the age of 13 and then again at 16 years old. At 16, she prayed that she would go, but only if God provided her a husband. "God brought us together. I am glad that God spoke to us individually," said David.

David and Lois were married in January of 1958. They pastored for five years in the Potomac district of Virginia before they moved to India in April of 1965. They spent the next 51 years in India, primarily based in Chennai. David had a burden to plant churches. He also worked in children's homes, Bible schools, and in an Assemblies of God hospital in Calcutta. David helped pioneer New Life Assembly of God with Rev. D. Mohan in 1973. The church now has more than 40,000 members with 15 services.

This year, David returned to India for the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Assemblies of God in India. "It has been a wonderful life. I never dreamed that I would stay in India so long. I have learned that God is looking for someone who is patient and faithful to work. It can be discouraging. Be patient and be faithful in the Lord. He helps us to accomplish what He has called us to do if we are faithful," said David.

This past November, Lois went to be with the Lord. David and Lois celebrated almost 58 years of marriage. All four of David and Lois' children attended Southeastern.

The oldest of the four children, **DAVID JR. '82, '12 MAML** served as an evangelist and missionary after graduating. He and his wife, Lisa, spent nearly 20 years as missionaries in India. David is currently the lead pastor of New Life Church in Leominster, Massachusetts. Their daughter, **ANDREA (STEWART) RAKES '13**, taught first grade for two years in Lakeland and then became a full-time Chi Alpha missionary in Tampa. Andrea and her husband now live in Massachusetts and work as youth pastors. David and Lisa's daughter, Tiffany, is a member of the first nursing cohort at Southeastern and is the co-president of SEU's Florida Nursing Student Association (FNSEA).

David and Lois' oldest daughter, **ANITA (STEWART) PIPKIN '85** pastored with her husband, **TIM '85**, for several

years before serving two terms as missionaries to India. After returning to the states, Anita started teaching music in Missouri and Tim works with the Assemblies of God area director for India, assisting the needs of the missionaries on the field. Their daughter, **EMILY '11**, received her master's degree in social work and is working in North Dakota with Home Health and Hospice.

**LOYD '86** is a major in the Polk County Sheriff's Department, where he has served for more than 25 years. His wife, **KARMA (SULLIVAN) '89** taught elementary school for several years in Lakeland, Fla. She is currently a homemaker and church volunteer.

The youngest of the four, **KEVIN '95**, served as a youth pastor after graduating. He and his wife, **STEPHANIE (HOGGARD) '95**, served as missionaries in El Salvador and Costa Rica. They now live in North Carolina. Stephanie is teaching nursing. Kevin is working for an educational supply company in Virginia Beach, Va. In addition, Kevin is helping to set up a fundraising company called World3Water which will supply clean drinking water to thousands of villages in India, Central America and Africa.

David Sr. had a few nieces and nephews that attended Southeastern as well. David and Lois' legacy lives on in their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. ➡





David and Lois



David and Rev. Y. Jeyaraj, General Superintendent of India



David and Lois with Pastor Leapus and Esther George and sons in Chennai



Loyd and Kevin



David and Lois with their children and grandchildren in July of 2009



# WHY IS THIS BIRTHDAY SO SPECIAL?





*Happy birthday! Or more accurately, happy half-birthday!* You just turned 70 ½ years old! This makes you very special because 70 ½ is the “magic number” of your retirement – you just reached an important milestone. This milestone can be a blessing, but it could also turn out to be a birthday gift you want to return... if you don’t know how to take advantage of it.

### **Your Retirement Benefits Are Ready and Waiting!**

The first thing that happens at age 70 ½ is that you must start taking withdrawals from any retirement plan account that you have, such as a 401(k), 403(b), an IRA or a pension/defined benefit plan. Initially, the minimum withdrawal is 3.65% of your retirement account assets. That required minimum distribution (RMD) will increase each year, and if you do not withdraw the minimum amount as required by law, you may be required to pay a penalty later – penalties that can go as high as 50 percent!

Additionally, because your retirement plan assets were invested pre-tax, you will need to claim your distributions as income and pay income taxes on those withdrawals. The amount of taxes taken out of your withdrawal will vary depending on your tax bracket when you withdraw the money.

There are ways to offset your tax liability and support your favorite school, your church, or other ministries/charities at the same time.

First, if you do not need your required minimum distribution for your living expenses, or if you only need a portion of the funds, you can donate some or all of your distribution to a non-profit charitable organization and receive a tax deduction for your gift. You will still pay taxes on the distribution (unless it is an IRA rollover,

which is explained below); however, many times the tax deduction for your gift offsets the amount you had to pay in taxes.

### **IRA Rollovers**

The other milestone of turning 70 ½ is your ability to roll over money from your IRA directly to a non-profit organization or charity and avoid paying taxes on that amount, up to \$100,000 per year. This past January, Congress passed into law the IRA Charitable Rollover provision permanently. This rollover provision was originally passed in 2006 as a temporary tax benefit that expired at the end of each year. The provision had been renewed year by year each year since 2006, but is now finally a permanent law that allows you to avoid paying income taxes on your IRA if you donate the gift directly from your IRA to the non-profit. This is now a very simple way to support Southeastern University or your other favorite charities and receive tax benefits in return.

### **Why Consider Making This Gift?**

Why should someone age 70 ½ or older consider giving a gift from their IRA retirement account? There are several reasons:

- Your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of the requirement to withdraw a minimum distribution from your retirement accounts, including your IRA accounts. By donating your withdrawal through an IRA rollover, you can give to your favorite charity or ministry – instead of giving it to the Federal government.
- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making immediately.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

## **? FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q. I’ve already named Southeastern University as the beneficiary of my IRA. What are the benefits if I make a gift now instead of after my lifetime?**

**A.** By making a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA while you are still living, you can see your donated gift at work. You are jump-starting the legacy you would like to leave and watching your gift bless students now as they prepare to realize the calling on their life. You can also fulfill any outstanding pledge you may have made to an endowment or capital campaign by transferring that amount from your IRA.

**Q. I have several retirement accounts—some are pensions and some are IRAs. Does it matter which retirement account I use?**

**A.** Yes. Direct rollovers to a qualified charity can be made only from an IRA. Under certain circumstances, however, you may be able to roll assets from a pension, 401(k) or 403(b) plan into an IRA and then make the transfer from the IRA directly to Southeastern University.

**Q. Can my gift be used as my required minimum distribution under the law?**

**A.** Yes, absolutely. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution, the IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement. Contact your IRA custodian or financial adviser to complete the gift.

**Q. I have two charities I want to support. Can I give \$100,000 from my IRA to each?**

**A.** No. Under the law, you can give a maximum of \$100,000 per year. However, if your spouse also has an IRA in their name, and they are also 70 ½ or older, he or she can also give up to \$100,000 from his or her IRA.

If you have questions about how you can make a gift to Southeastern University from your IRA or retirement plan, or if you would like more information about giving a legacy gift to SEU or other charitable organizations, contact Cheryl Roth in the Office of Advancement. Phone: 863.667.5088 | Email: [clroth@seu.edu](mailto:clroth@seu.edu) | Mail: Office of Advancement, 1000 Longfellow Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33801



# COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2016!







Congratulations to the spring graduating class of 2016! There were 449 graduates, bringing Southeastern's total graduation count since inception to over 13,000. This year's commencement speaker was Dr. Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon and politician. Carson became the chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1984 at the age of 33, making him the youngest major division director in the hospital's history. He is the recipient of the 2006 Spingarn Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.











Student commencement speaker Martin Ojeda



Kathleen Munson, the recipient of the President's Award

In his speech to students, Dr. Carson shared his struggle in academics when he was growing up. He credits the success of his education to his mother. Carson encouraged students to think big and “develop the talents God has provided you.” He reminded students to keep Christ in the center by saying, “If you will, in fact, keep God out front, He will lift you up and He will use you in a positive way.”

The student commencement speaker was Martin Ojeda. He served as the president of Enactus at Southeastern. After graduation, he will join the Unilever Future Leader's Program and will embark on a three-year journey to become a brand manager.

The recipient of the President's Award was Kathleen Munson. Munson served as President of the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce from 1992 to 2014.

The Southeastern Award was presented to Michael Hughes. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in general biology and minors in chemistry and religion. He has authored three books on wildlife biology and became the first Southeastern student to publish original scientific research in a peer-reviewed, professional scientific journal.

The Servant Leadership Award was presented to Justin Drury. Justin co-founded Charge, a local children's outreach program in Lakeland.

Dr. Berhane Ghaim, professor of mathematics, was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Larry Hazelbaker, professor of psychology, received the Excellence in Advising Award. Marlon Dempster, associate professor of literature and composition, was awarded the Teaching Faculty Award for the Support of Information Literacy. Dr. Cameron McNabb, assistant professor of English, received the Excellence in Scholarship Award.

The ceremony was recorded and is available online at <http://www.seu.edu/academics/graduation/videos/>.





Michael Hughes, the recipient of the Southeastern Award



Justin Drury, the recipient of the Servant Leader Award





SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY  
*Foundation*  
*presents*

# THE FORUM

## 2016-17 SPEAKER SERIES

The Forum Speaker Series not only enhances the education of Southeastern University students but also provides a venue for the public to hear from distinguished individuals from around the world who are leaders in the fields of business, education, the arts, and ministry.



### FORUM FOR EDUCATION

RON CLARK

Thursday, September 15, 2016 | 4 p.m.

Get recharged, inspired and energized as Ron Clark shares techniques on establishing relationships and engaging students in the classroom. Known to many as “America’s Educator,” Ron Clark is the 2000 Disney American Teacher of the Year, a two-time *New York Times* best-selling author, the subject of a television movie, and founder of The Ron Clark Academy.

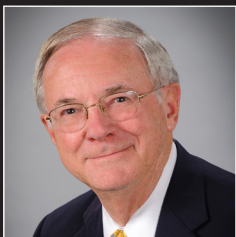


### FORUM FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

NANCY DUARTE

Spring 2017

Learn how to persuade others to follow your vision as Nancy Duarte shares how to move people forward to transform your organization. Duarte is a communications expert whose firm has created thousands of presentations for the world’s top institutions, including Apple, Facebook, Google, TED, and the World Bank.



### FORUM FOR BUSINESS

JIMMY COLLINS

Thursday, September 29, 2016 | 7:30 a.m.

To excel at leadership, you must first master followership. Jimmy Collins uses personal illustrations and stories to tell how he discovered and used his “Creative Followership Principles” for a successful and satisfying thirty-two-year career of service. By the time he retired, he was the president and chief operating officer of Chick-fil-A, a \$1 billion restaurant chain.



### FORUM SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Friday, March 10, 2017 | 6:30 p.m.

Save the date for an unforgettable evening as we raise funds to support the Southeastern University Scholarship program. Details to be announced soon.





# PERFORMANCE CALENDAR



Purchase Tickets at **SEU.edu/arts**  
or call 863.667.5657



SEP	23	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	28	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
OCT	5	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	6	<a href="#">Photography Exhibit 1</a> , 6:30 PM, Bolin 2nd Floor, Free admission
	10	<a href="#">Music Faculty Gala</a> , 7:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church, adults \$5; students \$3
	14	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	19	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	24	<a href="#">String Orchestra</a> , 7:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church, adults \$5; students \$3
	28	<a href="#">Wind Ensemble</a> , 7:30 PM, Bush Chapel, adults \$5; students \$3
	28	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
NOV	1	<a href="#">Dr. Charles Hulin (Recital)</a> , 7:30 PM, All Saints' Episcopal Church, adults \$5; students \$3
	7	<a href="#">Musical Theatre Revue</a> , 7:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church, adults \$7; students \$5
	11	<a href="#">Jazz Ensemble</a> , 7:30 PM, Bush Chapel, adults \$5; students \$3
	11	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	14	<a href="#">Choral Concert</a> , 7:30 PM, First Presbyterian Church, adults \$5; students \$3
	16	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	17	<a href="#">Contemporary Band</a> , 7:30 PM, Bush Chapel, adults \$5; students \$3
DEC	1	<a href="#">Photography Exhibit II</a> , 6:30 PM, CAM Gallery, Free admission
	4	<a href="#">An Afternoon Melody</a> , 2:00 PM, Polk Museum of Art, Free admission
	2-3	<a href="#">Christmas Concert</a> , 7:30 PM, Bush Chapel, adults \$5; students \$3
	8	<a href="#">Percussion Ensemble</a> , 7:30 PM, Southeastern University Band Hall, adults \$5, students \$3
FEB	1	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	10	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	15	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	23	<a href="#">Drawing Attention: Highlights from Drawing I and II</a> , 6:30 PM, CAM Gallery, Free admission
	24	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
MAR	10	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	15	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	24	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	29	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
MAR 31 - APR 1		<a href="#">Revolution Film Festival</a> , 7 & 9 PM, SEU Campus, \$10 general; \$8 students/seniors; \$15 for two-day pass
APRIL	5	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	7	<a href="#">Unpland Improv</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	18	<a href="#">Art to Art: The Intersection of Images and Words</a> , 6:30 PM, Polk Museum of Art, Free admission
	19	<a href="#">RAW TV</a> , 7 & 9 PM, Bolin Studio, \$2
	20	<a href="#">Paint Matters: Highlights from Painting I &amp; II</a> , 6:30 PM, CAM Gallery, Free admission



# FOCUS on FACULTY



**1 DR. KENNETH ARCHER**, professor of theology and Pentecostal studies, presented two papers at the Society for Pentecostal Studies in March 2016. One was titled “The Making of an Academic Pentecostal Tradition: The Cleveland School.” He had an essay, “Presidential Address: Pentecostal Hermeneutics and the Society for Pentecostal Studies: Reading and Hearing in One Accord,” published in *Pneuma*. He also co-authored an article, “Listening to the South: Quichua-Ecuador contribution to an Affective Pentecostal Hermeneutic,” that was published in *Global Renewal Christianity: Spirit-Empowered Movements Past, Present, and Future*.

**2 DR. MARK BELFAST**, assistant professor in music education, had his collaborative research related to alternative certification in music education presented at the 2016 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Music Research and Teacher Education Conference in Atlanta in March.

**3 DR. LINDA BOWLIN**, associate professor of criminal justice, co-authored an article, “Agency, Socialization, and Support: A Critical Review of Doctoral Student Attrition,” and presented the paper at the 2016 United Kingdom Council for Graduate Educational Annual Conference in Liverpool, England. She also co-authored an article, “Duality, Positionality, and Stance: Workplace Dissertation Research as Preparation for Practice-based Research,” and presented it at the Twelfth International Congress of

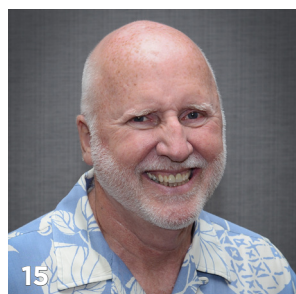
Qualitative Inquiry at the University of Illinois.

**4 BRIAN BLUME**, instructor of percussion, published an article in the Percussive Arts Society’s publication *Rhythm! Scene* entitled “Two-Mallet FUNDamentals: From the Ground Up.” He presented clinics at Baylor University, Katy High School in Houston, and at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in San Antonio. He also presented a solo keyboard percussion clinic at PASIC. He presented a percussion clinic as part of the BluHill Percussion Duo at the Indiana Percussion Association’s Clinic Day in Indianapolis. He published two new pieces for percussion: *Friction*, for marimba duet with digital audio accompaniment, and *Take Two*, for rudimental snare and tenor duet. Both pieces are published by Tapspace Publications.

**5 DR. SHUDONG BRAAMSE**, professor of music, recorded an album, *Voix Suprême: Mélodies of Jules Massenet*, with **6 DR. CHARLES HULIN**, chair of the department of music. This summer, she presented masters classes in Taiwan and China, and performed at concerts in Estonia, Finland, and Russia.

**7 DR. CRAIG COLLINS**, dean of the college of arts and media, was selected to serve on the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Alignment Team for Polk Vision. The purpose of the team is to identify a tactical plan in the focus area of Quality of Life.





**8 DR. PAUL CORRIGAN '07**, assistant professor of English, presented a paper, "Religious Exile in Li-Young Lee's Poetry," at the Society for the Study of Multi-ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) in Charleston, S.C.

**9 DR. ROBERT CROSBY '80**, professor of practical theology, and his wife, **PAM (KRIST), '81, '15 MAML**, were featured on Dr. James Dobson's nationally broadcast radio program, Family Talk. The program focused primarily on his book, *The One Jesus Loves*.

**10 DR. JEREMY CUMMINGS**, assistant professor of psychology, obtained his license as a psychologist in the state of Florida. He also published a paper titled "A Comparison of Christians' Concepts of Jesus Christ and God" in *The International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*.

**11 DR. MARGARET ENGLISH DE ALMINANA**, assistant professor of theology, had her article, "A Biblical Investigation of Matriarchal Structures in Ancient Semitic Life," published in the *Journal of Pentecostal Theology*. She also made two presentations at the Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS) on the topics of "Scandal and Censure: A Reinvestigation of the Socio-Political Forces Surrounding the Disappearance of Aimee Semple McPherson" and "Women in Pentecostal and Charismatic Ministry: Informing an Ongoing Gender-Focused Dialogue on the Faith Contributions of Women."

**12 DR. STEVEN FETTKE**, professor of religion, had his article, "A Pentecostal Theodicy? A Proposal," published in the April

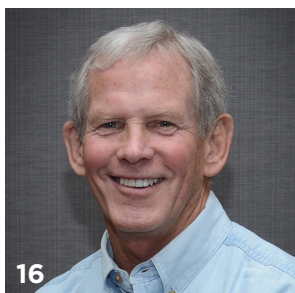
issue of the *Pneuma* journal. Fettke chose to include, posthumously, co-authorship of his article with a well-known former faculty member at SEU (for 20 years), Mike Dusing, who passed away December 27, 2014. Although Dusing did not actually help Fettke write the article, he had asked Fettke to co-author a book on a Pentecostal theodicy one month before his sudden and unexpected death.

**13 DR. THOMAS GOLLERY**, professor of education, was appointed to Polk State College's INNOV8 Action Research Team. Gollery will act as the team's statistician, analyzing and reporting on project efficacy.

**14 DR. DANIEL GORDON**, professor of choral music education, completed his third year as Repertoire & Standards Chair for Music in Worship for the Florida chapter of the American Choral Director's Association. He also adjudicated for the Florida Vocal Association at the District and State level. Gordon serves as the Artistic Director for the First Presbyterian Church's Performing Arts Series, which brings world-class professional musicians to Central Florida. He conducted the Niskayuna High School Choral Festival in Schenectady, N.Y., in March 2016.

**15 DR. MICHAEL GROGAN**, associate professor of psychology, gave a presentation entitled "Trinitarian Marriage: Reimagining Christian Marriage" at the international conference of the Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) in Pasadena, Calif. This is based on other written work he has been





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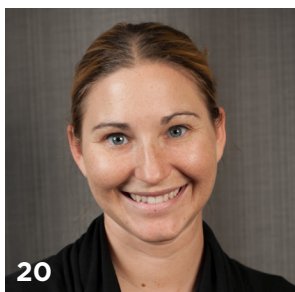
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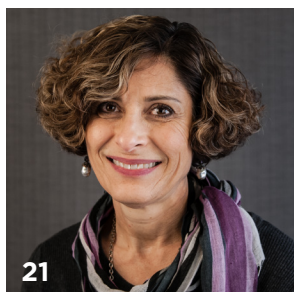
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preparing for publication in this topic area.

**16 DR. BILL HACKETT**, provost, taught a course in Homiletics at the Ohio School of Ministry in February. In March, he taught in the Pen Florida School of Ministry for one weekend in Kissimmee and one weekend in Jacksonville.

**17 VALINDA HARLAN**, instructor of counseling, was accepted to Walden University for doctoral studies in psychology. She also spoke and was a part of a panel at Oasis Community Church and at Southeastern University. Her topics included “Healthy Living” and “Breaking the Stigma of Mental Illness.”

**18 DR. EMILE HAWKINS**, professor of organizational leadership, completed a four-year journey to become a sworn Auxiliary Highway Patrol Trooper.

**19 DR. PATTY LEBLANC**, professor of education, was interviewed by the education writer of LRP Publications for an article. The interview focused on innovative partnerships between Title I schools and universities to secure grant money for special projects.

**20 DR. CAMERON MCNABB**, assistant professor of English, has had three articles published including, “Shakespeare’s Semiotics and the Problem of Falstaff,” “We are Living in a Material World: Teaching HEL through Material Culture,” and “Night of the Living Bread: Unstable Signs in Chester’s Antichrist.” She also presented at various colleges including the New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies in Sarasota,

Fla.; the Shakespeare Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La.; and Humanities pedagogy at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Mich.

**21 DR. MARLEEN MILNER**, chair of the department of social work, published a chapter in a journal titled, *Virtue and Character in Social Work Practice*. She has also presented at annual conferences on using the reflective judgment model to teach ethical decision making, preparing Christians for social work by forming character and fostering virtue, and learning gratitude in communities of practice. In December of 2015, she received Southeastern University’s Faculty Achievement Award. She also recently became an associate editor for the *Journal of Christianity and Social Work*.

**22 JASON OLD**, professor of Spanish and Latin American studies, spoke to the Florida Southern Spanish Honor Society about Cuba (and his book about Cuba). He also spoke at the USF Spanish Fair about Cuba.

**23 DR. MARCIA POSEY**, chair of the department of nursing, was appointed to Winter Haven Hospital BayCare’s Board of Quality and Safety.

**24 DAVID REVELL ’69**, assistant professor of mathematics, completed the Coastal Core in the University of Florida Master Naturalist Program.

**25 AARON ROSS ’08**, instructor of theology, presented a paper at the annual Renewal Theology Conference at Regent University entitled “Pentecostals, Tillich, and





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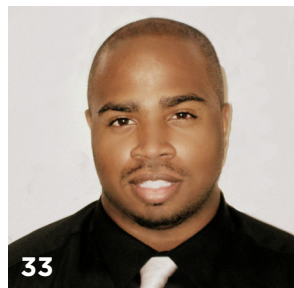
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Faith: A Tridactic Definition of Faith and Its Correlation to Science.”

**26 DR. ERICA SIRRINE**, dean of the college of behavioral and social sciences, co-authored an article entitled “Predictors of Continuing Bonds among Bereaved Adolescents” that has been accepted for publication in *OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying*.

**27 YOON SHIN '07, '14 MATS**, coordinator of graduate studies, was promoted to assistant professor of philosophy and ethics in the college of Christian ministries and religion.

**28 DR. K. ALAN SNYDER**, professor of history, has been awarded a book contract with Wipf & Stock Publishers for his manuscript on C. S. Lewis. The working title is *C. S. Lewis in America: His Enduring Influence*. The expected publication date is late summer-early fall. He presented a paper at the Academic Roundtable for the C. S. Lewis Foundation Summer Conference at Amherst University in Massachusetts. The title of the paper is “Liberty of Conscience vs. Pluralism: Light from Lewis.” He will be speaking at the New York C. S. Lewis Society in October, talking about his new book.

**29 DR. LEROY VANWHY '10 MBA**, assistant professor of business and leadership, completed his Ph.D. in organizational leadership at Regent University. His dissertation was titled *Development of the Authentic Followership Profile (AFP)*. Although there have been several models of authentic followership developed, there had not been a validated test instrument to actually measure the theoretical construct. Therefore, his dissertation is the first of a kind empirically validated test

instrument developed to measure the general construct of authentic followership.

**30 DR. GRACE VEACH**, dean of library services, has been offered a book contract with the editorial board of Purdue University Press for her book, *Information Literacy and Writing Studies*.

**31 DR. ROBBY WADDELL**, professor of New Testament and early Christian literature, had his article “Choose Your Own Adventure: Teaching, Participatory Hermeneutics, and the Book of Revelation” published in *Teaching the Bible in the Liberal Arts Classroom*. He also co-authored two articles with **32 DR. PETER ALTHOUSE**, professor of theology, published in *Pneuma: The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies* entitled “The Pentecostals and Their Scriptures” and “Pentecostalism, Cultural Analysis, and the Hermeneutics of Culture.” He also presented on the topic of “The War for the World: A Comparison of the Green Apocalypses in Ursula Le Guin’s *The Word for World is Forest*, James Cameron’s *Avatar*, and the *Book of Revelation*” at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies. He also serves as the corresponding secretary of PEACE (the Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment).

**33 DR. KEVIN WEAVER**, assistant professor of education, presented his research on Sport Law and Globalization at the Global Sports Business Association in Nassau, Bahamas, in February.





DANIEL AND JINJER (PAINTER)  
HASKETT | '08



RYAN AND SUSAN (SINCLAIR)  
CHESSEY | '07 / '09

# CLASS NOTES

IN THE LIVES OF SEU ALUMNI

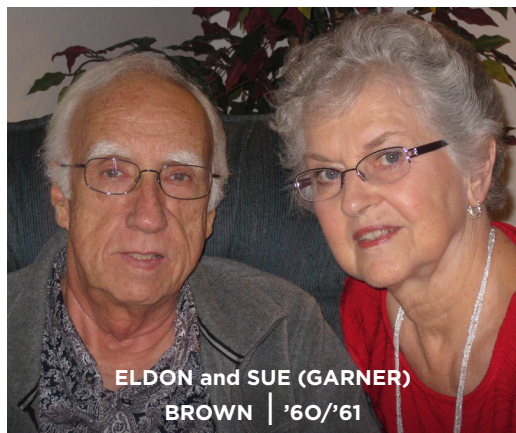


JARED AND KATHERINE "KATIE" (HASTINGS) FERIA | '02



JON CAGAN | '08





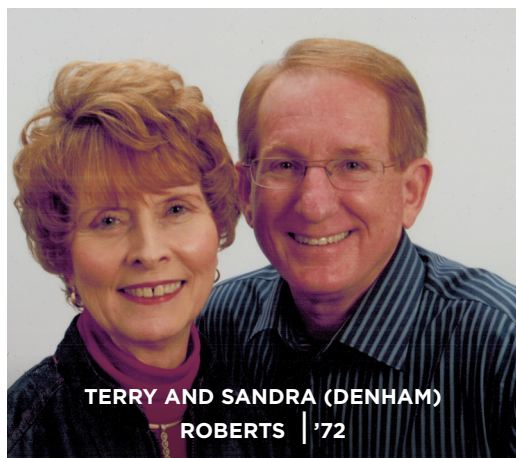
**ELDON and SUE (GARNER)  
BROWN | '60/'61**



**WANDA "FAYE" (SOX) BIFFERT | '71**



**HARRY HUNTER | '71**



**TERRY AND SANDRA (DENHAM)  
ROBERTS | '72**

## 1955

**CHARLES NEWBOLD** and his wife, Lucille, are both retired and live in Winter Haven, Fla.

## 1958

**DAVID CARTER** was one of three Kiwis from New Zealand to attend Southeastern and participated in many of the music groups. David was in the original Southeasters traveling group. For nine years, he has continued to minister on Radio, broadcasting three times a week with his program "On Wings of Song" from studios at WKTO ("We Keep Telling Others") 88.9 FM, New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and carried in an additional dozen Christian radio stations thru North Florida on into the Midwest. His wife's name is Joanie.

## 1959

**JAMES "JIMMY" MERRITT** and his wife, Marion, have been married for 55 years. They currently live in Channelview, Texas, and are evangelists. They have three sons, 14 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

## 1960

**ELDON and SUE (GARNER) BROWN '61** served as church planters and teachers in seven nations, including South Korea, Thailand and Belgium. Eldon and Sue pastored for two years, served in foreign missions for 33 years and in home missions for 10 years, evangelizing, planting churches and teaching in Bible schools and serving as a Missionary in Residence at SEU during 1992 and 1993. After a term in Ukraine, they transferred to home missions in 1997, where Eldon served as director of Urban Bible Training Center Tampa Bay until 2007 when they retired from Assemblies of God missions. **ROSE (MULLINS) JONES** has lived

in Panama City, Fla.; Atlanta, Ga.; Las Vegas, Nev.; and Springfield, Mo., since she graduated. She worked as an associate editor for a magazine in Springfield. She is a member of a ministry called House of the Rising Sun.

## 1962

**KENNETH HOTTINGER** lives in Fountain, Fla., with his wife, Ruth. He has retired from pastoring and is attending Youngstown Baptist Church. They have one son and two granddaughters.

## 1966

**JERRY and ALTHA "TINA" (CHAPPELEAR) WOOTEN '60** live in Brandon, Fla. Jerry is a retired park ranger and Tina is a retired preschool teacher, substitute teacher, and foster parent. They have five children, 17 grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

## 1967

**CHARLES and LINDA (CONLEY) SHIELDS** have been senior pastors of Ashland Assembly of God in Ashland, Ky., for thirteen years. Charles previously served on the district presbyters' board and has been involved in various prayer endeavors in the city.

## 1971

**WANDA "FAYE" (SOX) BIFFERT** worked at Asbury UMC in Raleigh, N.C., for more than 20 years. She serves as the communications director and administrative assistant to the lead pastor at Asbury. She met her husband, Dan, on an AIM trip in Colombia, South America, in the summer of 1971. Dan has a master's in cross-cultural communication. They have been a part of International Friendship Program at North Carolina





**TERRY BAILEY | '75/'09 MAML**



**FRANK LOPEZ | '84**



**STEVE AND MARY "TECE" (FISHER) ENTSMINGER | '85**

State University for 15 years. They have one daughter, Heather. Heather, her husband, and their daughter live in Dallas, Texas.

**PAUL HARRUP** and his wife, Nancy, live in Burke, Va., and celebrated 43 years of marriage on December 23, 2015. They have served in various churches in the Potomac, Penn-Del, and Southern New England Districts. Paul retired in February 2016 after 27 years with the Fairfax County government, all the while in bivocational ministry. Their sons, James and Mark, each served eight years in the Marines, both seeing action in the Middle East.

**HARRY HUNTER** is pastoring New Life AG in Calico Rock, Ark. He and his wife, Rosetta, have served as pastors for over 41 years. Harry taught for 27 years in various districts prior to pastoring. Harry and Rosetta will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August.

**RUBY (FRANKS SIMPSON) POWELL** is a retired elementary school teacher. She taught for 33 years for the Hardee County School Board. She has three children, six grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Ruby and her husband, Claude, attend Florida's First Assembly of God church. They are the coaches for the Family Care Serve Team at their church.

## 1972

**TERRY** and **SANDRA (DENHAM) ROBERTS** recently celebrated 47 years of marriage. They serve as the founding pastors of Trinity Church (AG) in Columbia, S.C. Terry completed his doctor of ministry degree at AGTS in 2014. He serves as a member of the SEU Board of Trustees and as an adjunct professor for the online program. Terry is the author of *Passing the Baton: Planning for Pastoral Transition*. Terry and Sandra have a daughter, **AMY (ROBERTS) MCGLOHORN '02**. Amy and her husband, Bobby Dan, have 9-year-old twins, Ellie and Riley.

## 1975

**TERRY BAILEY '09 MAML** has served as the district superintendent of the Tennessee Assembly of God Ministry Network since 2011. Terry and his wife, Susan, have been married for 42 years and live in Hendersonville, Tenn. They welcomed their first grandchild, Wyatt, in December of 2014.

## 1982

**WILLIAM TABER '16 MBA** is working for the Department of Defense as an Army civilian with the Unmanned Aircraft Program in Savannah, GA.

## 1984

**FRANK LOPEZ** has coordinated and run basketball clinics for youth for the National Basketball Association for the past 18 years. He also hosts basketball clinics for the WNBA, Jr. NBA, and NBA Cares. He coaches boys basketball at Lakeland Christian School and helps officiate basketball games. He had the opportunity to meet President Obama while hosting a clinic at the White House. Frank and his wife, Kelly, have three children, Christopher, Mackenzie, and Madelynn.

## 1985

**STEVE** and **MARY "TECE" (FISHER) ENTSMINGER** have worked as AGWM missionaries since 1988 and are currently teaching in the Spanish Assemblies of God Seminary in La Carlota, Spain. They are involved in children's ministry training on a national and European level. Their passion is to see children reached and discipled by trained workers. Steve is currently in the Applied Intercultural Studies Doctoral Program at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in Springfield, Mo.





CRAIG RUESCH | '90



SANDY (TROPEA) GRIFFITH | '96



CHESTER SPELLMAN | '00



JAIME VAUGHN | '00

## 1986

**SUSAN (SISK) VLAHOS** is living in Easley, S.C. Susan is a head trainer at Greenville Social Security Disability office. She also works close with her husband, Nick, pastoring New Life Foursquare Church.

## 1987

**FRANKLIN** and **SHEILA (ALDRIDGE) '71** celebrated 42 years of marriage. They have both taught in varying levels of public education, from Pre-K to Adult Education, and have served on various committees. They also have been involved in church ministry. Frank spent a month in Tanzania doing missions work.

## 1990

**CRAIG RUESCH** and his wife, Brooke, are the new lead pastors at Refuge Church AG in Perry, Ga. Prior to that, they served as the lead pastors of Family Worship Center AG in Beloit, Wis., for 15 years.

## 1992

**RANDY** and **ROBIN (WOODS) KNECHTEL '91** are pastors and church planters in Columbia, S.C.

## 1993

**REGINA CLIFTON** is the manager at Master Cuts Hair Salon in Franklin, Tenn.

**TODD** and **CRYSTAL "RENEE" (CLIFTON) NELSON** moved to Nashville, Tenn., in 2003 to plant a church. In 2006, they started a fire equipment business and are celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the business this year. They have been married for 22 years and have three boys and a girl.

## 1996

**SANDY (TROPEA) GRIFFITH** and her husband, Jason, live in Lakeland with their three children: Zachary (14), Ashley (12), and Emily (8). Her husband has worked with the Bartow Police Department for 20 years. Prior to having children, Sandy was a teacher for five years. She now teaches fitness though Gold's Gym in Lakeland, in addition to being a full-time, stay-at-home mom. They attend church at Heritage Baptist in Lakeland.

## 2000

**CHESTER SPELLMAN** and his wife welcomed their third child, Rosalia, on September 2, 2015.

**JAIME VAUGHN** is the director of sales and marketing at Word Entertainment, a Curb Company.

## 2002

**JARED** and **KATHERINE "KATIE" (HASTINGS) FERIA** live in Gainesville, Fla. They have three children: Eden (8), Avery (6), and Ari (4). Jared is an instructional and first year teacher, mentor, and coach in the Alachua County School System. Katie is a community coordinator and member of GreenLife Homeschool.

## 2005

**MATTHEW DYKEMA** graduated from the Georgia Campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2009. He completed his residency in family medicine at Danville Regional Medical Center in Virginia and became board certified in 2012. He moved to Hilo, Hawaii, in September 2012 to practice medicine in the underserved areas of the Big Island of Hawaii, as a National Health Service Corp Scholar. He married his wife, Kashe, on July 5, 2014.





MATTHEW DYKEMA | '05



LINDSEY YATES | '05



SHAWN LORRAINE | '08



BART SHELDRAKE | '09

**LINDSEY YATES** is celebrating his 42<sup>nd</sup> year as a State Farm agent in Winter Haven, Fla. He recently wrote a book about the humanity of Jesus called *Behold the Man – Made a Little Lower than the Angels*.

## 2006

**CHRISTOPHER** and **LAURA (HEYMES) CRAFT** are entrepreneurs in financial coaching and leadership development. They are living in Alabaster, Ala., and recently celebrated 10 years of marriage. They have been volunteer youth pastors since they graduated from SEU and have a passion to influence the upcoming generation.

## 2007

**RYAN** and **SUSAN (SINCLAIR) CHESSEY '09** have a piano studio in Lakeland, Fla., where they specialize in teaching piano to beginners in fun and creative ways. Ryan published his first piano works at Piano Pronto Composers Community. They also released a collaboration, "Further Your Kingdom," with local recording artist Melissa Tremel.

**DANIEL** and **JINJER (PAINTER) HASKETT '08** having served on staff at Gastonia First Assembly for nearly five years. They, along with their daughter Julia Layne, transitioned to begin serving as lead pastors at Washington Assembly of God in Washington, N.C., on June 26.

**RENEE (JOHNSON) MCCALLUM '16 MEED** started at Southeastern in 2003 and has continued her education through pursuing a master's degree in elementary education.

**DUSTIN MENDHEIM** has been married to his wife, Alicia, for seven years. They have a son, Camden, and a daughter, Brooklyn. Dustin served as a youth pastor for three years after graduation. For the past five years, he has served and currently serves full-time as a firefighter in Dotham, Ala.

## 2008

**JON CAGAN** attended the University of Florida Levin College of Law, earning his Juris Doctor in 2011. After passing the Florida Bar, he worked as an assistant state attorney, as staff counsel for GEICO, and for a law firm in downtown Tampa. He recently opened a law firm named Cagan & Cagan and is the managing attorney. The firm focuses on PIP litigation, auto accidents, and criminal defense.

**BRITTANY HARRIS** is currently living in Lynchburg, Va., where she works from home with an advertising company. She earned her MBA in international business in 2012. She has served with her local church body through production and now helps lead worship. Since graduating, she has ministered overseas in Hong Kong and India.

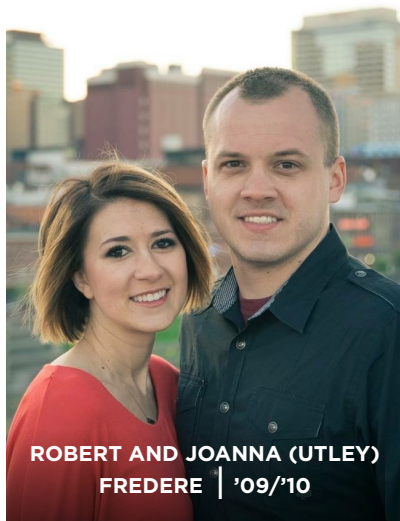
**SHAWN LORRAINE** and his wife, Lily, are pursuing missions in Nairobi, Kenya, in efforts to help a local congregation establish a church. Shawn is working towards finishing his M.Div. at Regent University and due to complete an internship at Bayside Community Church in the fall.

## 2009

**ROBERT '10 MAML** and **JOANNA (UTLEY) FREDERE** live in Nashville, Tenn. Robert is the student ministries director at Cornerstone Nashville with Pastor Maury Davis. He has been on staff there for two years. They moved from Dallas to Nashville, after working in litigation consulting for four years. Joanna works for a non-profit called Mercy Multiplied with young women seeking residential Christian counseling.

**JOHN ROBINSON** volunteers at his church as the youth pastor in Hunstville, Ala.





**ROBERT AND JOANNA (UTLEY)  
FREDERIC | '09/'10**



**MATTHEW DAVIS | '11**



**CHRISTINA (SARA)  
SPURLOCK | '11**

**BART SHELDRAKE** currently lives in Lakeland, Fla., with his wife, Nicole, and three children Vasya (12), Noah (4), and Luke (1). Bart is a teacher at Tenoroc High School.

## 2011

**KELSEY (HOWARD) BAUMANN** moved to Lexington, Va., after graduating to work for a Young Life camp called Rockbridge. She met her husband, Drew, at the camp. They were married in 2012 and still live in Lexington.

**MATTHEW DAVIS '15 MBA** was promoted to Finance Leadership Development Program Senior at Lockheed Martin in Lakeland, Fla. He has worked for Lockheed Martin for four and a half years. In his role, he is in his second year of the program supporting Government Finance and in his first year of the Finance LDP program as a financial analyst. He is a CPA candidate and received his master's in business administration from Southeastern in the summer of 2015. He and his wife **WHITNEY (BOGGS) '12** recently went on a vacation to Ireland and London.

**CHRISTINA (SARA) SPURLOCK** focuses her energies on the engineering side of the broadcast world. Her work has her a part of various system integration projects for live event productions across the country. She just celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary with her husband, Kaiden.

**NORY (VILA) VELA** works in the Osceola County School District as an ESE teacher for the fifth grade. She was awarded First Year Teacher of the Year for the 2011-12 school year. In 2014, she was awarded Outstanding Educator from the Council for Exceptional Children for the entire Osceola County School District. In 2012, she began her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. She will be graduating with her master's degree in 2017 from Nova Southeastern University. She married her husband, Shawn, in 2012 and they have a video production company called Vela Visuals.

**WARREN WEST** works with an international non-governmental organization called Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), which works in Cambodia through projects focused on three areas: rural education, food security for small-scale farmers, and peace building. He is the project coordinator and he works with 11 local partner NGOs to plan, monitor, evaluate, and report on their projects that MCC supports. He has been in Cambodia since August 2012.

## 2012

**DEVIN** and **ASHLEY (PYLE) BEHRENS** live in Jacksonville, Fla. They attend Christ's Church in Jacksonville. Devin is a collections senior supervisor at Citibank. Ashley works for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and received her master's degree in social work in 2013.

**JASON** and **LINDSAY (MILLAR) HIGDON '13** are working at Western Connecticut Center for Neurofeedback and Counseling in Sandy Hook, Conn. Lindsay is the clinical director of Neurofeedback and QEEG Analyst. Jason recently began working there as the business administrator. They are also members of The Mission Church (AG) in Holmes, N.Y. Jason is also involved in the Royal Rangers ministry as a Rangers commander.

**ALEXIS (KNUDSON) RUARK** and her husband, Shaun, welcomed their first child on September 26, 2015.

## 2014

**SETH GESIN** is working on his master's degree in divinity studies and coaching at his local high school in Coconut Creek, Fla. He is also working as a substitute teacher.

**CASON WHITLOCK** is working as a middle school science teacher at Southwest Middle School in Lakeland, Fla. He coaches boys middle school junior varsity basketball and is the assistant girls middle school varsity

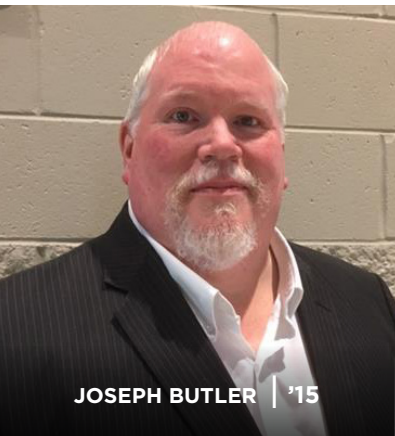




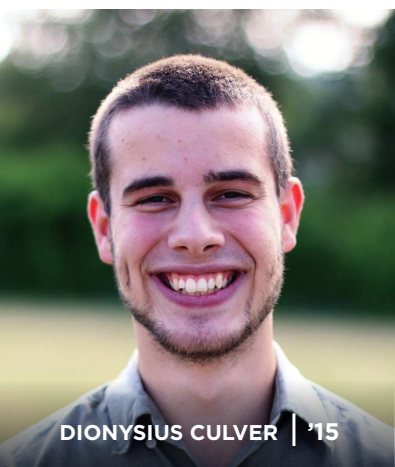
**NORY (VILA) VELA | '11**



**WARREN WEST | '11**



**JOSEPH BUTLER | '15**



**DIONYSIUS CULVER | '15**

basketball coach. He is also the middle school chess club coach.

## 2015

**JOSEPH BUTLER** completed his master's of theological studies from Logos University in Jacksonville, Fla., in March 2016. He is serving as adjunct professor and course mentor for Logos University in their undergraduate program. He is also working on his MAML degree at SEU and will complete it in the summer of 2017.

**DIONYSIUS CULVER** was hired as the youth and outreach pastor for Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

**KARSTEN OLSON** is working as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Creswell Middle Prep in Nashville, Tenn., through the organization Teach for America. He and his wife, Krista, have a three-year-old daughter, Kelliana. Krista is working at a hair salon and also helps Karsten coach junior high girls basketball at his school. He is working on his master's degree in education at Lipscomb University. They attend Christ Presbyterian in Nashville, Tenn.

**BRETT RUPP** has been working as the assistant store manager at Jos. A. Bank at Lakeside Village in Lakeland, Fla., for the past five years.

## VETERAN NEWS



On July 2, Staff Sergeant **KELLY E. WILLIAMS SR. '10**, who currently serves in the Missouri Army National Guard, and Tech Sergeant **BERNADETTE FLETCHER '08**, who serves in the United States Air Force, recently connected while recognized during the Fair St. Louis "Salute to the Troops."

We honor all of our veterans who are currently serving or who have served in our military. Please send a Class Note with you in your service uniform as we would love to highlight you in this new section of our Class Notes.

### SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES

All submissions due by **December 1** for the next issue.

- Email: [alumni@seu.edu](mailto:alumni@seu.edu)
- Submit online at [SEU.edu/alumni](http://SEU.edu/alumni)
- Mail to:  
Alumni Relations  
Southeastern University  
1000 Longfellow Blvd.  
Lakeland, FL 33801



## IN MEMORIAM

**DONALD COX '55** passed away on February 1, 2016, in Montgomery, Ala. He pastored Assemblies of God churches in Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia, serving for 50 years. He was preceded in death by his wife **MARY JOSEPHINE (PRICE) '55**.

**ROBERT HICKS '59** passed away on April 14, 2014, after a lengthy period of declining health. He pastored churches in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina. He was recognized posthumously at the North Carolina District Council for 50 years of service as an ordained Assemblies of God minister by the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**ZACKY D. MUSSELWHITE** attended Southeastern in the early 60s and though unable to graduate due to financial reasons at home, he went on to influence two of his younger brothers to enter the ministry full time and had an active Evangelical calling throughout his life bringing many souls to salvation through the teachings of Jesus. His love of Southeastern was known to all who knew and loved him. He went to be with the Lord on May 2, 2016, leaving his beloved wife Sandra and his blended family of eight children, seven grandchildren and one great grandchild, all who will miss him and hold him in great esteem deeply in their hearts and souls.

**HARLEY OLSON** passed away on January 23, 2016. Harley served as a professor at Southeastern University from 1983 to

1995. He was an ordained Assemblies of God minister and served Northern Michigan and Wisconsin as the district superintendent. Harley is survived by his wife, Elaine Feder-Olson; his grandson, Chad; and great-grandchildren: Kaitlyn, David, and Stephanie.

**LYNDA (ROBERTS) OWENS '77** passed away on April 24, 2016. Lynda served at Southeastern since 2003. Most recently, she worked as the administrative assistant for the Department of English & Foreign Languages. Lynda is survived by her son, Kevin. She was preceded in death by her husband, Steve.

On March 19, **LARRY STUBBS '72** passed away at home from cancer. Originally from Troy, Ala., Larry graduated with a missions degree. While at Southeastern, he was nominated Mr. Christ Ambassador and he was voted Mr. Southeastern. He was also the sophomore class president, editor of the yearbook, active in the drama department, and very active with The Flame (SEBC News).

Larry married his wife, **BEVERLY (PARKER) '72**, in 1973. Beverly taught public school in Polk County from 1972 to 2002. She is now an adjunct professor of early childhood at Polk State College. Larry worked in advertising as a graphic artist, home schooled their daughter, Elesha, from fifth grade through high

school and then tutored many students in his home.

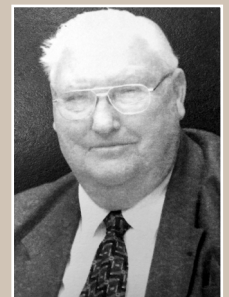
Larry and Beverly worked together in children's churches and kids' crusades in the Polk County area. They raised Larry's nephew, Sammy Jinright, for a year and also adopted two boys: Timmy and Terry Lane, whom they met during a children's church visitation in Haines City, Fla.

**ELESHA '99** married her husband, **MARK JONES '96**, in 1999. Since graduating, Elesha works as a self-employed writer and graphic designer. Mark teaches at McKeel Academy of Technology. Mark and Elesha have two children: Christopher (13) and Alayna Catherin (10).

Larry and Beverly have four grandchildren. Larry also has three living brothers: Donald Jinright, Jerry Stubbs and Billy Stubbs.

**OLLIE WALTERS** passed away on June 1, 2016. He attended Southeastern from 1955 to 1956. Ollie served as an Assemblies of God minister for 58

years and served in the army from 1951 through 1954. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **KATHRYN (VARNADOE) '56**; his son, Olley Warren Walters Jr.; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.







# THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER ED LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

by Dr. Brian Carroll '06, '07 MBA

This may sound strange coming from an SEU alumnus and now one of its administrators, but I never thought I would go to Southeastern. My grandfather was a pastor and church planter in the panhandle of Florida, what is also known as the West Florida District of the Assemblies of God. So my father, his older sister, and his two younger brothers were not really given much of a choice when it came to college. Either you could go to Southeastern Bible College or you can go to Southeastern Bible College. In the 60s and 70s if you wanted to attend a Christian college, especially one of our AG schools, there really weren't a lot of choices and more than likely you attended the one that was geographically closest to you. Believe it or not, Millennials, in those days you couldn't just FaceTime mom or dad if you were feeling a little homesick or

wanted to see and talk to a familiar face. It was this proximity to home that provided opportunities for students to see and connect with family on a more regular basis. The rest is, as they say, "history."

However, unlike my grandfather's conversation with my dad regarding his choice of college, my parents totally left that decision up to me. When it came time for me to look at college, I can honestly say that Southeastern was not even on my radar, even though I grew up just down the highway a few miles away in Bartow. By that time in the early 90s, companies like America Online, Prodigy and CompuServe were allowing millions of Americans like me to search the Internet, accessing people, places and information like never before. With the proliferation of the World Wide Web, colleges and universities were now able

to reach potential students in a whole new way. Instead of having to go to the school that was closest to me or even one that kind of had a major I liked, I could search the Web and find the exact school that met all of my criteria. Schools, now more than ever, had to really work for the students they were trying to reach. They could no longer just count on the usual crop of students based on geography or even religious affiliation. The balance of power had shifted from the schools into the hands of students who were now armed with a world of information just a few clicks away.

There is no denying that Southeastern has endured some times since her founding in 1935, and by the late 90s I think it would be safe to say that she was just surviving. Then in 1999 Dr. Mark Rutland was elected as the school's



fourteenth president. He had a vision for what the school could become, and with a daring plan to invest millions of dollars to create new academic programs, remodel most of the existing buildings, add several new facilities – including a new restaurant and dorm buildings – he believed the school would become a magnet for students looking for something relevant yet grounded in our Christian heritage. I am sure at the time there were many who doubted that such a plan would work; however, with the advantage of hindsight, as we now know the school went from less than 1,000 students to just over 3,000 students within an eight-year span and Southeastern Bible College transformed into Southeastern University.

Fast-forward to 2011, Dr. Kent Ingle begins his tenure as Southeastern's fifteenth president on the heels of the worst recession since the "Great Depression." However, this time was different. Instead of producing the vision, he allowed the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the community to speak into the new direction SEU would take for the next five years. Again, with the benefit of hindsight we can see that not only did this listening exercise produce a five-year strategic plan that has resulted in the most explosive growth in the university's history, but a school that is more connected to its Christian roots than ever. This year Southeastern will welcome an incoming class of 1,000

students culminating in total enrollment of more than 5,000 students, hailing from all 50 states and more than 30 countries.

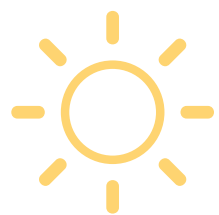
In the same way that the Internet shattered the concept of geographically confined institutions of higher learning in the 90s, the landscape for higher education is again changing rapidly. We, as institutional leaders, must change to meet the demands of this new world. The line between traditional and non-traditional educational models is becoming blurred, and we have to focus our attention on establishing programming that provides students access to more affordable and accessible education. Additionally, we must continue to work collaboratively with a model of shared governance to create a vision stakeholders, both internally and externally, can believe in. This means continuing to tear down borders and remove barriers, replacing them with bridges that will provide more access to Christian higher education than ever before.

There is no doubt that the fruit of our SEU community's labor is evident, and the plan is working. In the last five years we have doubled our endowment, doubled our student body, doubled the amount of available academic space, and increased our student aid from just over \$5 million per year to more than \$25 million this coming fall. Also, under the direction of Dr. Ingle, we have created

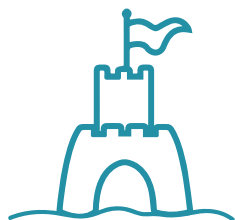
specific scholarships for those wanting to go into vocational ministry fulltime through our "1935 Society," which last year lowered the total cost of education of ministry majors by more than \$2 million. No doubt, we are navigating turbulent times, but in reality hasn't it always been this way? Southeastern has always faced adversity, and I don't think that will ever change as long as we keep our grounding in the Word. We will continue to pray that God would bless the work of our hands and we would ask you to do the same. ➡

*Dr. Carroll currently serves as the executive vice president at Southeastern University. He earned both his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Southeastern University. Dr. Carroll also completed the Program on Negotiations, an executive education program, at Harvard Law School. In between finishing his master's and pursuing his PhD, Dr. Carroll earned a certificate of graduate study in entrepreneurship from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va. He earned a doctor of philosophy in organizational leadership from Regent University in 2013. In the fall of 2016, he will complete his Master of Liberal Arts with a concentration in finance from Harvard University.*





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